Army officer who blamed AFP chief sacked

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

SIKAT NA AKO!

Now Rosebud is a jazz bar

BY V. CABREZA
PDI N. Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A restaurant owner jumped the gun on the competition here over the weekend by naming his jazz bar "Rosebud" after the headline-

NOW/ A15

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ★ 42 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 275 ₱15

RP bags 4 golds

BY DENNIS U. EROA

KUALA LUMPUR—Filipino taekwondo jins and wushu artists yesterday bagged four gold medals on the third day of action in the 21st Southeast Asian Games here.

Sydney Olympian Roberto Cruz established himself as a

RP/ A5

GSIS millionaires listed

Corpus leaves for HK on his way to Israel

BY CARLITO PABLO AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

NOT only Sen. Panfilo Lacson but also his nemesis Col. Victor Corpus took off for Hong Kong Sunday.

But while Lacson was bound for the United States, a source close to Corpus said he was heading to Israel on "an official mission."

The source claimed that Corpus' trip was not related to the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces' continuing inquiry into Lacson's alleged hidden wealth abroad and his supposed involvement in organized crime.

Another source said Corpus was due back on or before Sept. 18, "but this is still subject to change."

At a press conference in Camp Aguinaldo, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan confirmed that Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva had authorized Corpus' "official trip."

Adan said he did not know where Corpus was headed or the purpose

CORPUS/ A14

CHINA
ISRAEL
HONG KONG
USA

CORPUS
Departure: Sept. 9
Destination: Israel via HK
Expected return: Sept. 18

LACSON
Departure: Sept. 9
Destination: US via HK
Expected return: Sept. 22/23

KIM WONG
Departure: Sept. 7
Destination: HK, Xiamen
Expected return: N/A

COA voids retirement financial plan

BY DONNA S. CUETO

THE COMMISSION on Audit has voided and declared "illegal" a supplementary retirement scheme of the Government Service Insurance System allowing its employees to get as much as P13.5 million in gratuity pay and P94,000 in monthly pension.

The COA said the GSIS Employees Loyalty Incentive Plan (Elip), which the GSIS Board approved early this year, was "morally indefensible" as it contained more benefits than the regular government retirement plan.

The COA found that 16 GSIS personnel, who availed themselves of the Elip this year upon their retirement, received a total employee loyalty incentive plan package of P72.3 million.

The 16 included former GSIS president Federico Pascual, who was only appointed by former President Estrada during his term.

Through the Elip, Pascual was entitled to receive P16.7 million as of his retirement date on Jan. 25, 2001 at the age of 58. He had a basic monthly salary of P356,979.

"They are thus acting like the step sisters of Cinderella who took the latter's wealth and at the same time made her life miserable," a COA memorandum and legal opinion said.

"It is the position of this Office, therefore, that the GSIS Elip is null and void," the COA said.

Pascual got an Elip of P11.445 million apart from the P1.094 million from the five-year lump sum and a monthly pension of P8,292. He will also receive a provident fund of P3.06 million.

"While the fund of GSIS comes from the contributions of lowly employees like teachers, utility workers and clerks, they who were en-

GSIS/ A14

Lacson trip to US approved by Drilon

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

SEN. PANFILO "Ping" Lacson's "disappearing act" over the weekend may have taken most Filipinos by surprise, but not Senate President Franklin Drilon, who approved his colleague's travel request last week.

Drilon allowed Lacson to leave for the United States this month to attend an annual meeting of Caviteños in California, the Senate protocol office disclosed yesterday.

Drilon issued a press statement later in the day, saying he had approved Lacson's request "merely as a procedural matter for all official trips" of senators.

A source in the protocol division said Lacson's office submitted the letter of request to the Office of the Senate President on Sept. 3, the day of the fourth joint-committee hearing on his alleged involvement in drug trafficking, money laundering and kidnapping activities.

Lacson, who left for Hong Kong Sunday, reportedly en route to California, had asked Drilon's office for clearance to travel from Sept. 7 to 22, during the upper chamber's ongoing two-week recess, said the Senate staffer.

Drilon immediately approved the trip and instructed the protocol office to issue Lacson a travel order, the source said.

Under Senate rules, senators are sup-

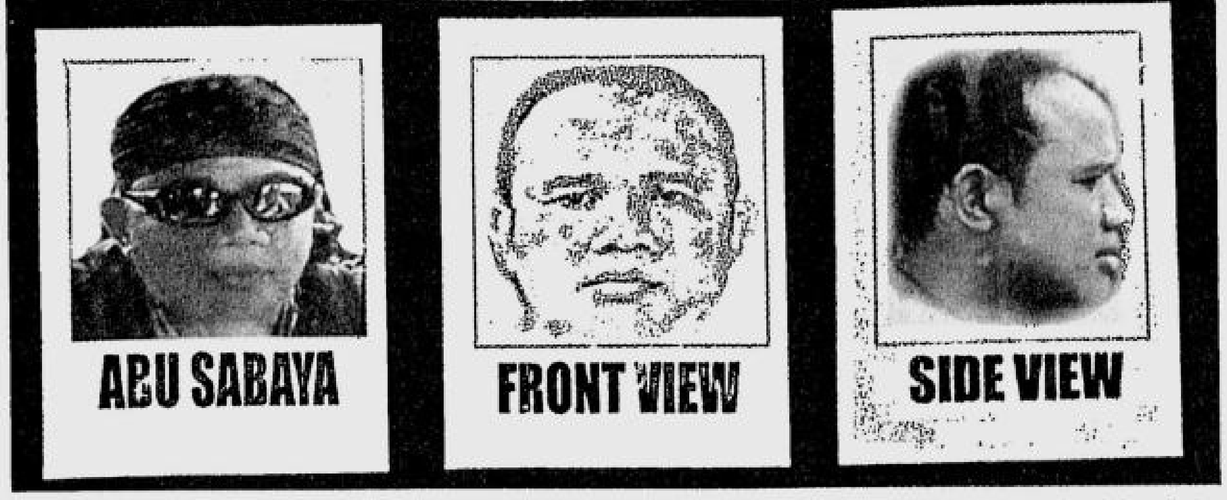
LACSON/ A14

WANTED

ALDAM TILAO

aka ABU SABAYA

REWARD : P5 MILLION



HOW TO BE A MILLIONAIRE: This is what Abu Sabaya looks like, according to the AFP which obtained the photo. A tip to the military as to the whereabouts of Sabaya will earn you P5 million in easy bucks. *(Story on page A3)*

2 lawyers ask Davide to rethink SC choice of new administrator

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THEY belong to the same club and they play tennis together. So?

Two lawyers, however, have urged Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to probe deeper into the relationship between alleged drug lord Kim Wong and newly appointed Court Administrator Presbitero J. Velasco Jr.

In separate letters dated Sept. 6, Jesus Santos, chair of the National Association of Lawyers for Justice and Peace, and Magdaleno Peña also sought a deferment of Velasco's oathtaking today.

Santos and Peña said only a person with "moral fitness" and "solid reputation for integrity and competence" should occupy the post of court administrator.

They pointed out that the court administrator wielded enormous administrative power and influence over judges and personnel of lower courts.

In a letter to Davide on Aug. 28, the 58-year-old Velasco sought to dispel "malicious rumors" regarding his involvement in Kim Wong's alleged criminal activities.

"The allegation that I am an intimate associate of Mr. Kim Wong and I run errands for him are blatant lies. I know Mr. Wong because he is a member of the Philippine Columbian Association, of which I am also a member," he said.

"Plainly, it would be most unfair to implicate me just

2 LAWYERS/ A14

GSIS RETIREMENT BENEFITS

NAME OF RETIREE	POSITION	TOTAL AMOUNT
Federico C. Pascual	PGM	P16,691,687.30
Lourdes C. Patag	Senior VP	17,502,402.98
Marina Y. Santamaria	VP	13,164,411.97
Vicente C. Villegas	VP	13,500,629.32
Rosita N. Lim	Div. Chief III	5,844,013.78
Manuel G.Ojeda	Div. Chief III	3,432,715.48
Juanito D. Garnier Sr.	Driver III	833,243.12
Nita P. Javier	Corp. Sec.	16,621,646.78
Daniel N. Mijares	Senior VP	16,682,773.42
Rustico delos Angeles	Acct. Mgr.	4,955,365.81
Lourdes delos Angeles	VP	10,324,512.63
Elvira U. Geronimo	Senior VP	15,611,361.72
Antonio S. de Castro	Div. Chief III	1,906,298.87
Elvira J. Agcaoili	Dept. Mgr. III	5,130,980.21
Manuel P. Bausa	Dept. Mgr. III	4,948,527.27
Gloria L. Anonuevo	Chief Acct. Specialist	2,960,822.37
	GRAND TOTAL	150,111,393.03

Army inspector general sacked

Officer released report blaming AFP chief for fiasco

BY CARLITO PABLO, CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND CATHY YAMSUAN

THE MILITARY officer whose fact-finding report blamed the Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva for the escape of the Abu Sayyaf in Lamitan, Basilan, has been relieved as Army Inspector General.

"Outdated," Malacañang yesterday dismissed the report of Brig. Gen. Reynaldo Rivera as it pointed out that the ongoing congressional hearings on the June 2-3 Lamitan fiasco would appear to clear the AFP chief of staff.

Rivera led a six-man body investigating the military operations in Lamitan that left four soldiers dead. His report with its damaging conclusion about Villanueva's alleged meddling in operational matters was dated July 3.

Even as Villanueva offered to resign, President Macapagal-Arroyo is congratulating him and his troops for making a headway in their fight against the Abu Sayyaf, according to presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

Villanueva himself made a categorical statement "that I did not make any orders to rescind or call back the 18th Infantry Battalion from Lamitan," Villanueva said.

But Villanueva could be held liable for violation of the chain of

ARMY/ A15

Nacorda fears whitewash of Basilan case by military

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

FR. CIRILO Nacorda yesterday expressed fears that a military internal investigation would gloss over the alleged connivance between some high-ranking officers and the Abu Sayyaf bandits in the latter's escape from a military dragnet in Lamitan, Basilan, in June.

"I have apprehensions that they are going to whitewash the case," he said.

Nacorda, who blew the whistle on the alleged connivance, questioned the finding of a six-member fact-finding team that the interference of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva in the military operations against the Abu Sayyaf led to the escape.

NACORDA/ A15

Second FRONT PAGE

MALAKING RALLY ITO!

Big push for pay hike tomorrow

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

MILITANT labor groups yesterday accused Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas of protecting big business by warning that a P125 increase in daily wages would lead to business retrenchments and closures.

The groups, at the same time, asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to certify the wage hike bill being proposed in Congress as urgent.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno and Wage Increase Solidarity (WINS P125) will stage nationwide rallies tomorrow to press for the immediate passage of the P125 across-the-board wage hike measure, or House Bill 2605, filed by Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran.

Sammy Malunes, KMU spokesperson, said Sto. Tomas was protecting the interests of business groups like the Employers Confederation of the Philippines and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"She even contradicted the Department of Labor and Employment's own figures which showed that nearly one-fourth of all closures and retrenchments in the first quarter of this year cited lack of markets and a slump in demand as the principal reasons for their cutbacks, while only 1.3 percent cited wages as a problem," Malunes said.

Sto. Tomas said in an interview over dzBB radio yesterday that her department and the National Capital Region wage board will decide on the P77 wage hike petition filed by the Labor Solidarity Movement next month.

She echoed the warning of the National Wages and Productivity Commission that a P125 wage hike would lead to the loss of two million jobs and bloat the current inflation rate of 6.3 percent to double-digit levels next year.

Beltran will lead labor leaders in a visit to Malacañang today to deliver a letter to Ms Macapagal seeking positive action on the workers' demand for a P125 wage hike, ahead of the President's state visit to Japan tomorrow.

Ngayon na!
IPAGLABAN
Dagdag na sahod
P125
across the board
NATIONWIDE
KMU • KPMM
Ngayon na!
IPAGLABAN
Dagdag na sahod
P125

DENNIS SABANGAN

GIRL makes pitch for a P125 increase in daily wages as the Kilusang Mayo Uno prepares for tomorrow's big rally.

The KMU has long been asking the President to certify the pay hike bill as urgent. The bill also proposes a P3,000 monthly salary increase for government employees.

Beltran said at least 20 congressmen so far have expressed their willingness to co-sponsor the P125 wage hike measure.

Beltran said he hoped Speaker Jose de Venecia would lift his opposition to the bill.

"It's not too late for Speaker De Venecia to cast his vote in support of this just and much-needed economic relief for our workers," Beltran said.

Esther Guirao, of the National Wages and Productivity Commission, had warned at a recent congressional hearing that if the bill was passed this year, many establishments that cannot afford the increase might just opt to close.

"The NWPC and the wage boards agree that there's a need to increase wages but the amount should be set by the wage boards based on consultations with workers and employers on a regional basis," Guirao said.

KMU's member federations, unions and affiliates in the National Capital Region, Southern Tagalog and Central Luzon will gather at the Liwasang Bonifacio at 11 a.m. to march to Mendiola at 2 p.m.

Militant labor groups in Cebu, Bacolod, Davao, Iloilo, South Cotabato, Baguio, Bicol and other provinces and major urban centers will hold similar demonstrations to support the wage hike demand.

Elmer Labog, KMU secretary general and convenor of WINS, said 50,000 workers, urban poor, peasants, government employees, youth and students, women, church people and professionals will join the rally.

Labog cited a paper released by the Ecumenical Institute for Labor Education and Research (EILER) that said the unemployment crisis was not a valid pretext for opposing the wage hike.

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Solon fires new salvo, defies JDV gag order

By Rocky Nazareno

MAJORITY Leader Neptali Gonzales II warned members of the "Gang of Five" alleged extortionists in the House of Representatives to be careful when hurling charges against their accusers.

"Their counter-charges can blow up in front of their faces," said Gonzales.

The five alleged "Gang of Five" members said that Gonzales and his deputy, Rep. Francis Joseph Escudero, had fed the media the "malicious" reports that they had allegedly extorted P2 million each from Smart and Globe. The two telecom firms are being probed by the House for proposing to cut free text messages.

The five alleged gang members were identified as Representatives Prospero Pichay (Surigao del Sur), Jacinto Paras (Negros Oriental), Aniceto Saludo (Southern Leyte), Eduardo Veloso (Leyte) and Rolex Suplico (Iloilo).

The five were so enraged by the report that one of them, Pichay, reportedly challenged Gonzales to a fistfight or a gun duel.

"Let us not muddle the issue with challenges like that because those who do that have something to hide," Gonzales said. But a source close to Pichay said the Surigao congressman made the remark to a television reporter in jest.

In holding his press conference, the Mandaluyong solon was violating a standing order from Speaker Jose de Venecia for all parties to the controversy not to issue any statements until he arrives from Bangkok.

"I am just asking that we also be heard even just this once. Then we can impose a moratorium," Gonzales said.

STOP P350 MILLION TAX FRAUD

People and things are not always what they seem. Behind a good deed may be a despicable act. And a supposed pillar of the community can actually be a whitened sepulcher.

In late 1996, we sold the Jaz Cola Group of companies to Republic Flour Mills-Cosmos Bottling (RFM-Cosmos) controlled by the family of businessman Jose "Joecon" Concepcion for P1.168 billion plus other considerations. The deal was a straight business sale with an agreement for RFM-Cosmos to pay all taxes on the transaction.

Had it been simply treated as such, government could have collected about P250 million from the sale.

Instead RFM-Cosmos reduced the tax to P52 million via a sham assets-for-shares swap scheme that cheated the government of about P200 million.

A legitimate assets-for-shares swap is a tax-free transaction unlike a straight business sale. However, it requires:

- That the party exchanging the assets for shares in another company gain at least 51 percent ownership and control of the party exchanging shares. THIS DID NOT HAPPEN IN THIS CASE.
- That the shares remain in their ownership. Otherwise, transfer to another party becomes taxable.

RFM-Cosmos evaded payment of the right taxes by having the Jaz Group pre-sign several documents and thereafter denying the information to the Jaz Group that they had used the documents fraudulently through an elaborate scheme purporting to show a fake assets-for-shares swap instead of a straight business sale. These consisted of:

1. Agreement with a "vehicle corporation" named Cosmos Visayas Bottling created on the same day of the MOA signing for the swap of Jaz assets for shares of Cosmos Visayas.
2. An agreement with a Bahamas-based Concepcion company called FAUNA DEVELOPMENTS LTD. for the assignment of the same shares swapped with Cosmos Visayas Bottling.

This scheme robbed the government of P200 million in taxes. Now adding surcharges, penalties and interest would bring the RFM-Cosmos total tax liability to **P350 million**.

This amount could have easily financed the construction of new 1,700 classrooms for the benefit of 60,000 elementary students, 2,000 low-cost housing units for 2,000 squatters.

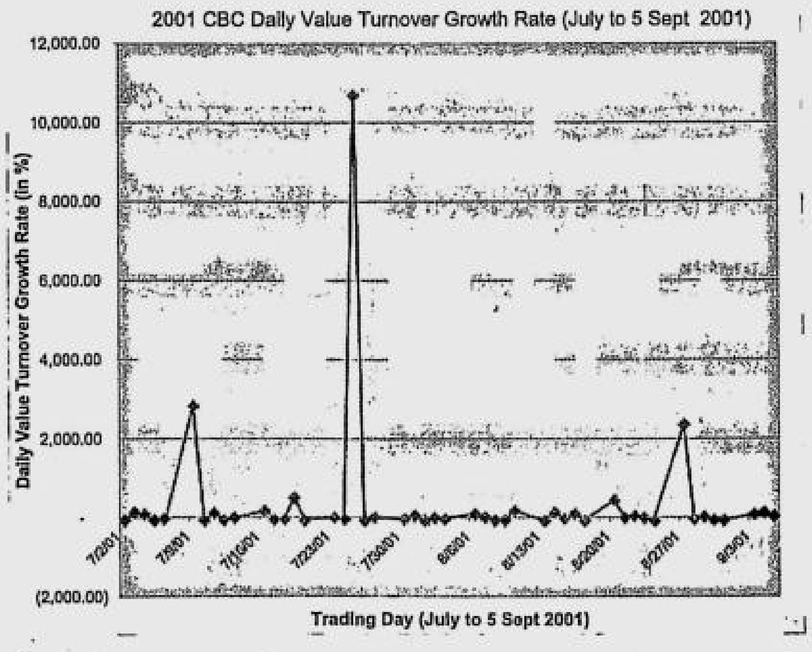
But if the sale of Cosmos to San Miguel Corporation pushes through, government will lose its right to collect these taxes.

It was not the Jaz Cola Group, but the 70 million Filipinos that were the victims of this scheme. They were ripped off P5 each in 1996. If the Concepcions would get away with their obligations again for the Cosmos sale to San Miguel, it would cost the Filipino P50 each.

Private interest is always subordinate to public interest. The public is the victim here—not Jaz Cola or any other company involved in the sale.

This is why we are exhausting all legal remedies and calling on responsible agencies of government and institutions of business—the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Bureau of Internal Revenues, and the Philippine Stock Exchange—to, at the very least suspend the trading of Cosmos and RFM shares pending their own investigations, if not the resolution by the court of the case we have filed.

This will also pave the way for investigation of our allegations that RFM and Cosmos engaged in insider trading and stock manipulation to prop up the value of Cosmos shares and prevent a price fall when the court issued a restraining order on their sale to San Miguel.



On July 25, when the San Miguel purchase of SMC was made public, the value turnover of Cosmos shares skyrocketed by 10,689 percent. On August 27, when the TRO issued by the court was announced, the value turnover of Cosmos shares shot up by 2,338 percent even as the price per share dropped from P5.80 to P5.70.

There is grave reason to suspect that RFM and the Concepcions were artificially supporting the price and manipulating the trading to stop the price from falling and keep it within the P6.20 share contemplated in the sale to San Miguel.

All we ask is for the trading to be suspended for 15 days.

If we are right, then we would have served public interest well, and the SEC and PSE would have performed their duty well. But if the SEC and PSE do nothing and we are proved right, then they would have defaulted on their duty and government would have lost P350 million of our people's money. If we are proved wrong, then we would have lost nothing. But I would rather be safe in heart that I have done my part, I have exerted my best. The rest is up to the SEC, the BIR, and the PSE. The Filipino people will render judgment on them as well.

Augusto "Boboy" Syjuco
For the Jaz Cola Group of Companies

Acop blamed for entry of drug lords

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

IMMIGRATION Commissioner Andrea Domingo yesterday said the Bureau of Immigration could have blacklisted suspected foreign drug traffickers and couriers if only former PNP Narcotics chief Reynaldo Acop had provided the bureau with their names.

Domingo revealed yesterday that the five Chinese whom Acop tagged as suspected drug couriers in the Senate hearing on Sept. 5 had already been arrested by the Western Police District on June 16, 1999 in Malate, Manila, but only on charges of drunken driving as claimed by the police.

"The five were released on June 17 by the WPD without even informing the BI except by saying that the fiscal dismissed the complaint of drunken driving," Domingo said.

Domingo said immigration officers came to know of their arrest when the WPD policemen inquired with the BI if the five Chinese were registered with the BI. After verification of their identities, it turned out that one of them had a Special Investors Resident Visa (SIRVs) while the rest had valid tourist visas at that time.

"If the five Chinese were in the custody of the police two years ago, why is it only now that Acop identified them as suspected drug couriers?" Domingo said. "If Acop informed the BI back then regarding their alleged illegal activities, then the BI could have blacklisted them and arrested them for being drug couriers and not drunken drivers."

Domingo said she had ordered BI Intelligence chief Lino Calingasan to check the arrival and departure records of the five Chinese to see if they are still in the country.

'Sweeping' statement

Domingo also bewailed Acop's allegations that BI personnel were responsible for the entry of Triad members plying the illegal drug trade in the country, saying the accusations were "sweeping."

Domingo turned the tables on Acop for not relaying the names of the foreign drug lords to the BI so they can be placed in the immigration blacklist and banned from entering the country.

"If Mr. Acop had given us the names of these drug lords, then we would have blacklisted them long ago and prevented them from entering the country," Domingo said.

But just the same, Domingo ordered newly appointed BI Associate Commissioner Orlando Dizon to investigate allegations by Acop that some BI personnel were acting as "trouble shooters" for members of the Hong Kong Triad and other international drug syndicates.

"I have instructed Associate Commissioner Dizon to look into this so that if there are in fact BI personnel involved in this heinous crime, they can be meted the proper disciplinary action," she said.

Acop also alleged in the Senate hearings that drug syndicates had "trouble shooters" in other government agencies like the Bureau of Customs, Department of Justice, and Land Transportation Office. He stopped short of publicly identifying the alleged cohorts whom he reportedly named in an executive session with senators.

Difficult to pinpoint

Former Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez yesterday said Binondo-based fixers in the Board of Investments were also responsible for the entry of bogus foreign "investors," mostly Chinese, although he admitted that it would be difficult to pinpoint who among these were members of the drug syndicates operating in the country.

Rodriguez said last year alone the Bureau of Immigration under his term cancelled SIRVs of more than a hundred Chinese from Hong Kong and the mainland who were found to have not only bogus investments but also fictitious addresses in the country.

Rodriguez said two fixers, one he identified only as a certain "W. Keng," were known to operate in the BOI by facilitating the issuance of SIRVs to mostly Chinese clients who pay as much as P200,000 to be cleared by the BOI.

"These fixers merely recycle the SIRVs issued previously to other foreigners," Rodriguez said. "We have found out that the business and home addresses of these fake SIRV holders are non-existent."

Sabaya: Terrorist unmasked

By C. Pablo

LOOK closely at the man in the picture. A tip to authorities that leads to his arrest will earn you a whopping P5 million.

The man in the picture is Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya, according to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"This is a face that few people know," AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said as frontal, semi-frontal, side and back shots of the purported Sabaya were presented at a press conference yesterday in Camp Aguinaldo. "He is a criminal, terrorist, drug addict, rapist and what have you."

The photos showed Sabaya without his obligatory dark aviator glasses and bandanna wrapped around his head.

Adan said the photos were not computer-generated, as defense reporters had immediately suspected.

From the angle that the photos were supposedly taken, it would appear that Sabaya willingly posed before a camera.

Adan declined to say where the shots came from. "We can't reveal our source. These are among the latest photos," he said.

He expressed confidence that with the photos, the AFP would soon be able to apprehend Sabaya, whose true name, he said, is Aldam Tilao.

"This is a person we will soon get," Adan said. "This is his face."

The AFP has given out a total of P25 million in reward money for the earlier arrest of Abu Sayyaf leaders and members.

Under the reward system, ranking Abu Sayyaf leaders carry a prize of P5 million each, and ordinary members, P1 million each.

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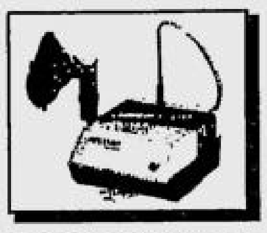

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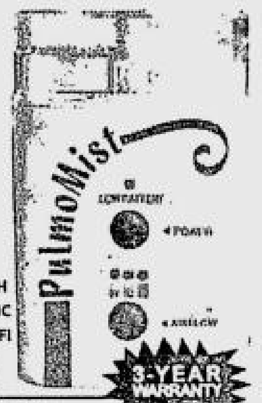

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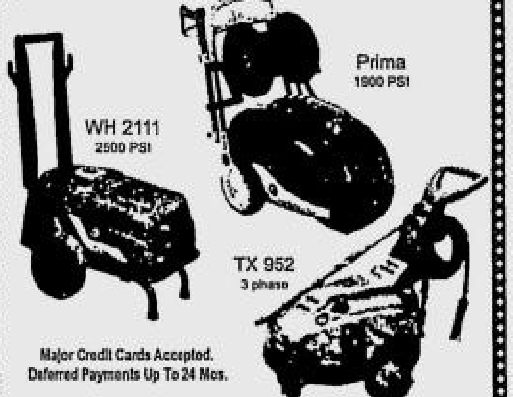

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Handlers bicker over Ador

By Christian V. Esguerra and Philip C. Tubeza

A PRIEST and a lawyer supporting Angelo "Ador" Mawanay yesterday figured in a minor rift over whether the ex-civilian asset should stop appearing on television shows.

Contrary to a claim by lawyer Argee Guevarra, a member of Mawanay's legal support team, Jesuit priest Carmelo Caluag yesterday said he or military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus did not issue any "gag order" on Mawanay.

Friends and concerned parties, Caluag said, have merely been advising Mawanay to stop appearing on TV, especially on show biz talk shows, to avoid "trivializing" the issue of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged involvement in high crimes.

"As I've always been telling Ador, he should now concentrate on gathering pieces of evidence to prove the allegations he leveled against Lacson and other prominent personalities," Caluag told the INQUIRER.

Mawanay has linked Lacson to drug trafficking, kidnappings, summary executions and other crimes.

Concerned sectors, Caluag said, fear that Mawanay might already appear like a "clown" before the public.

"They feel Ador is talking a lot but he's not backing his claims with tangible evidence. We don't want people to start laughing at him," the priest said.

"It's for his own good. We don't want him to be on the losing end. He has already revealed a lot of things and it's time to show proof."

Caluag's remarks came after Guevarra criticized him in a radio interview yesterday morning for supposedly barring Mawanay from talking to the media.

Guevarra told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that Caluag advised Mawanay not to talk to the media unless the priest clears the interview first.

"It is the right of Mr. Mawanay to freely express himself. No power or institution can restrain that individual's right," Guevarra said.

Caluag said he would talk to Guevarra to clear the air. "If he wants us to work together, he should learn to be a team player," the priest said.

For his part, the lawyer said that this disagreement should not be misconstrued as a full-blown squabble between him and Caluag.

"This should not be misinterpreted. We are very grateful and have full trust and confidence in Father Caluag's motivation to provide safety and guidance to Mr. Mawanay," Guevarra said.

"But his motivation borders on over-protectiveness," he added.

Naia 3 foes file raps vs transport secretary

By Abigail L. Ho and TJ Burgonio

A GROUP of airport concessionaires opposed to the Naia 3 terminal project yesterday filed a P76-million plunder case against Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez for allegedly overpricing through a firm partly owned by him certain aspects of the terminal's construction.

The MIA-Naia Association of Service Operators Inc. (Maso) also filed criminal charges against Naia 3 contractor Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco), its ground handling services arm, the Philippine Airport and Ground Services, and Wintrack Builders, the firm said to be partly owned by Alvarez.

Also charged were top transportation and airport officials, including airport general manager Edgardo Manda.

Alvarez, however, dismissed the charges, saying they were "baseless and politically motivated."

"I had nothing to do with the contract. This was signed in 1997," he said.

Alvarez believes the charges were being brought out now to block his confirmation at the Commission on Appointments so the contract for the new terminal would be changed to favor Maso.

In a press statement, Piatco dismissed as "all lies" the allegations of Maso.

Piatco spokesperson Moises Tolentino Jr. said the complaint was "just another component of Maso's malicious design to harass entities that it considers allied with its business competitors and to protect its own selfish interests at the expense of the Filipino people."

The Filipino-German-Japanese joint venture had been awarded the contract to construct and operate the $500-million Naia 3 under a build-operate-transfer scheme.

In its complaint, Maso, through its chair, Perfecto Yasay Jr., and president, Jovino Lorenzo Jr., said Wintrack had overpriced the excavation and site preparation work at Naia 3 by bloating by as much as 500 percent the dimensions of the work with the alleged connivance of Piatco and some of Manila International Airport Authority officials.

Maso said Wintrack made a windfall profit of P76,496,157.45.

It alleged that more than P56 million of the overpayment was deducted by Piatco from the annual guaranteed payments due the government.

This amount was allegedly paid while Alvarez was one of the vice chairs of the House committee on transportation and communication.

In its statement, Piatco said the demolition of the subterranean structures at the Naia 3 site was "not under Piatco's or Wintrack's control but MIAA's and the MIAA ensured that the relevant rules were followed."

Tolentino said the work was "undertaken following a rigid and transparent process that involved the verification and re-verification of the removed quantities at several levels."

In an earlier interview, Alvarez said he was not even a member of the pre-qualifying bids and awards committee that awarded the contract to Piatco.

He said he was not transportation secretary yet when the contract was signed in 1997, adding that his wife, Emelita, had divested her 30 percent share in Wintrack before his appointment as secretary.

He added that Wintrack was just one of some six to 10 sub-contractors involved in site preparations for the project and that the contract was not even that large.

He said he would file his response within the required 10-day period.

Lorenzo said it was Alvarez himself who had pushed them to go to court by challenging them to go to court.

"We're just obliging him," he said.

'Balato kids' joining Gloria trip to Japan

By Christine O. Avendaño

JUST like old times, Senators John Osmeña and Tessie Aquino-Oreta will be joining a presidential entourage, this time that of President Macapagal-Arroyo who begins a four-day working visit to Japan tomorrow.

The two senators, dubbed the "balato kids" for receiving P1 million each from ousted President Joseph Estrada's gambling winnings, regularly joined foreign trips made by the former president.

Osmeña is now part of the majority coalition in the Senate while Oreta belongs to the minority.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the two senators are in the 14-member official delegation of Ms Macapagal to Japan.

Ms Macapagal will be accompanied by her husband, lawyer Jose Miguel Arroyo. Tiglao will also be with the delegation.

Malacañang released yesterday the President's schedule in Japan, which will see her meeting with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko on Thursday and later with top government officials and businessmen.

The President leaves for Japan at 2:45 p.m. tomorrow. She will be back on Saturday the 15th.

Thursday will also see her having breakfast with "friends of the Philippines" hosted by newly appointed Philippine Ambassador to Japan Domingo Siazon Jr.

She is also scheduled to hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, where they are expected to exchange notes on the Subic-Clark Tarlac Expressway project.

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Roco disowns senseless exams

THE EDUCATION department has asked for a review of the questionnaire in a licensure examination for teachers after receiving numerous complaints that many of the questions did not make sense.

Aspiring teachers took the exam, called the LET, given by the Professional Regulatory Commission on Aug. 26.

Education Secretary Raul Roco, writing to PRC chair Antonieta Fortuna-Ibe, said the department had received a "torrent of complaints" from teachers who fear that they might flunk the exam and not have their license to teach.

Questions like "What is artificial dissemination?" and "What is a clowning of cows" reportedly appeared in the tests.

The first question should have referred to "insemination" and the second to "cloning," Roco said.

The answers to some math questions did not appear among the multiple choices, he added.

Roco said the Department of Education was not involved in, nor was it consulted, in the construction of the test, adding the DepEd might move for a change.

"We could move for the amendment of the PRC law. Certainly, education officials should have some kind of participation here," Roco said in a press briefing.

He did not say if there would be a repeat exam.

Blanche S. Rivera

ERRATUM

The chairman of the Metrobank Foundation Inc. is George S. K. Ty, not George Go as erroneously reported in the caption of the photo of the Metrobank Foundation's outstanding teachers awardees which appeared in the INQUIRER on Sunday. The INQUIRER regrets the error.

RP bags 4 golds in taekwondo and wushu

(From page A1)

taekwondo legend as he kicked his way to his sixth straight SEA Games gold medal.

The Philippines also got golden performances from jin Veronica Domingo and wushu artists Mark Robert Rosales and Willie Wang.

The four athletes boosted the Philippine gold total to six, putting the country within striking distance of Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia in the heated overall race.

Host Malaysia leads with 24 golds, 9 silvers and 11 bronzes, followed by Vietnam with an 8-9-11 tally.

Cruz's gold shone brightest among the Filipinos' output as he dashed the hopes of Malaysia's Shahidin Sha Mohd Farook with an overpowering 7-0 victory in the final of the finweight class.

He started winning the event in the 1991 SEAG in Manila. Cruz also dominated the event in 1993 (Singapore), 1995 (Chiang Mai), 1997 (Jakarta) and 1999 in Brunei.

Domingo, a 22-year-old Manileña, outkicked Indonesia's Onyas Nurmala, 6-1, in the lightweight final at the Johor Baru Municipal Council Indoor Stadium, four hours away by land here.

Unlike Cruz, this was Domingo's first trip to the winner's podium in the biennial sportsfest. She won the bronze two years ago in Brunei.

Rosales, who won the 1997 world championship for cudgel play in Italy, broke local hearts when he ruled the men's gunshu over another Malaysian bet Lim Kin with a 9.33 total before an enthusiastic crowd at the Penang International Sports Arena.

Wang shared the gold medal with the illustrious Oh Pong Soon of host Malaysia in qiangshu. It was Soon's third gold.

Also in Penang, 1994 world women bowler of the year Shalin Zulkifli of Malaysia survived the Philippine challenge by winning the women's singles with 1,318 total.

Filipinos Cecilia Yap (1,303) and Irene Garcia (1,283) consoled themselves with the bronze and silver medals, respectively.

Cruz's fellow Olympians, Donald Geisler (lightweight) and Eva Marie Ditan, (finweight) salvaged the silvers. Geisler lost to Myanmar's U Thit Lwin, 3-0, while Ditan suffered a heartbreaker 5-4 to Vietnamese Nguyen Thi Huyen Dax Alberto.

Morfe placed third in men's middleweight, while karatedo, which has already given the Philippines two golds, contributed a bronze in women's individual kumite.

Fencer Lenita Reyes (individual foil) accounted for the other silver. The other bronze winners were fencer Rolando Canlas (individual foil), 'karateka Maricar Rimando (individual kumite, below 53 kilograms), cycling's 4-kilometer team pursuit squad (04:45.453), the 10-meter air pistol shooting team of Marcelo Gonzales, Carolino Gonzales and Gilbert Escobar and the women's tennis team.

The men's basketball squad, featuring MBA stars, made a rousing debut by drubbing Indonesia, 112-74. All but one of 11 players fielded in by coach Boysie Zamar scored, with Romel Adducul topscoring with 20.

Filipino boxers Larry Semillano and Maximo Tabangcora made it to the next round, but highly rated lightfly Harry Tanamor fell to Malaysian Sapok Biki, 4-12, in what boxing president Manny T. Lopez called a "daylight robbery."

Tanamor, bronze medalist in the world championships in Belfast a few months ago, fought well and delivered solid blows.

But Lopez noted that "our boy's punches did not count. In fact, the computer (which tallies the count) broke down after the fight."

Semillano, a lightweight, won by RSC in the second round due to compulsory count limit after his Cambodia foe, Saun So Kunthea, was counted twice in the first and twice in the second rounds.

Middleweight Tabangcora merely sized up Brunei's Wira Moyd Yassin as he easily posted an 18-12 victory.

Swimming continues to thirst for gold as Olympian Jenny Guererro lost a thrilling clash with Singaporean Nicolette Teo Wei-Min for the 100m breaststroke gold. Guererro clocked 1:12.91, while Wei-Min timed 1:12.64.

Another silver medalist was Lenny Reyes in women's individual foil while teammate Rolando Canlas salvaged the bronze in the men's side.

Miguel Molina and Lizza Danila were unable to win medals in their respective events. Danila struggled to sixth place in the women's 400m free, while Molina finished fourth in the 100m breaststroke.

Malaysia also beat the Philippines in women's football, 1-0, while gymnast Pia Adelle Reyes, the darling of the 1997 Jakarta Games, slumped to fifth in women's artistic individual all around.

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By CHAMPAN GARMENT CORPORATION

On August 27, 2001, the Bureau of Customs at the NAIA held the importation of fabrics of **CHAMPAN GARMENT CORPORATION** that arrived aboard Federal Express FLT. FX-7042 allegedly due to mis-declaration. The Unverified and unfounded findings of the BUREAU OF CUSTOMS circulated in various print media purportedly the importation to be foiled smuggling with an attempt to defraud the Government in huge duties and taxes.

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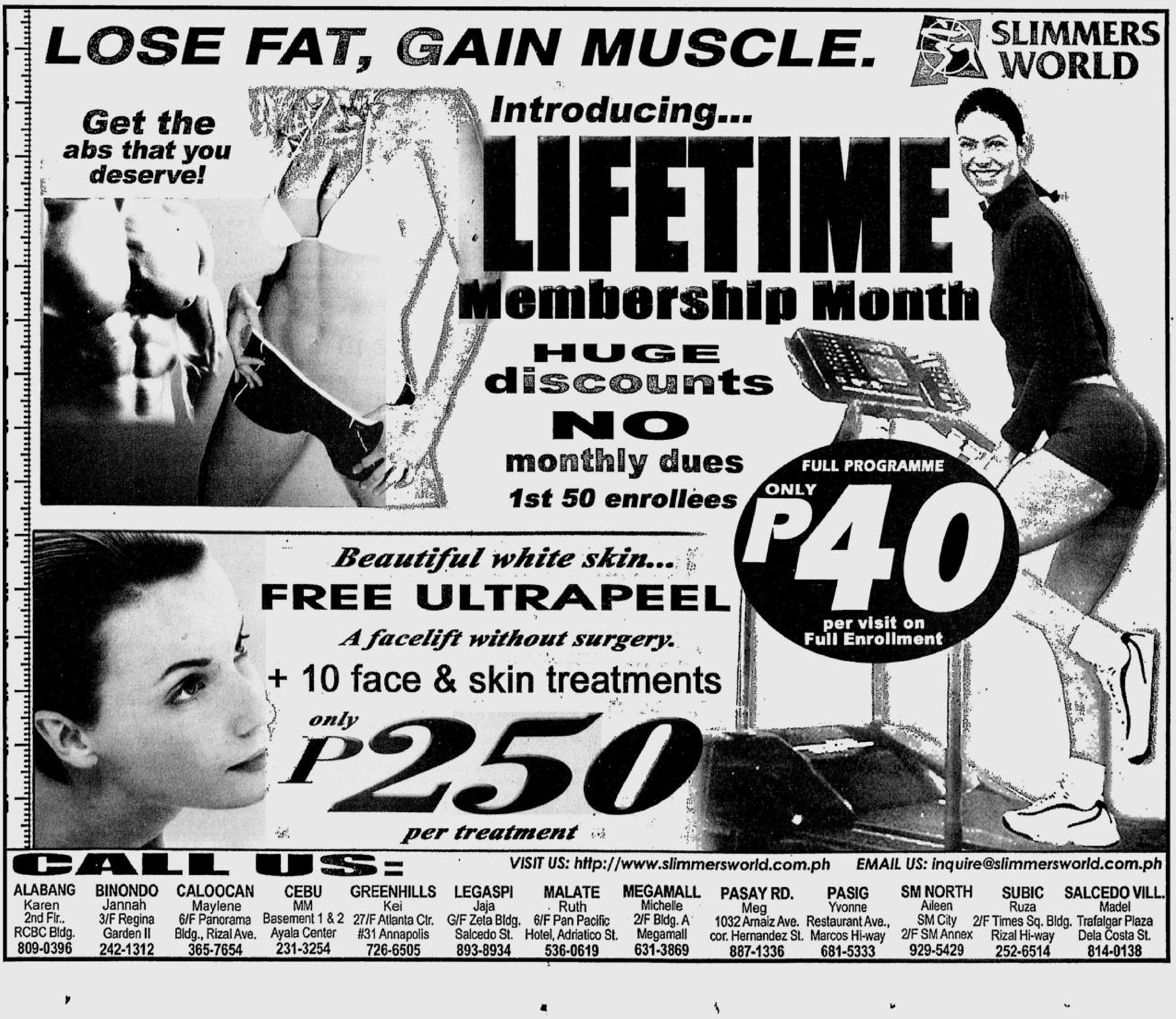

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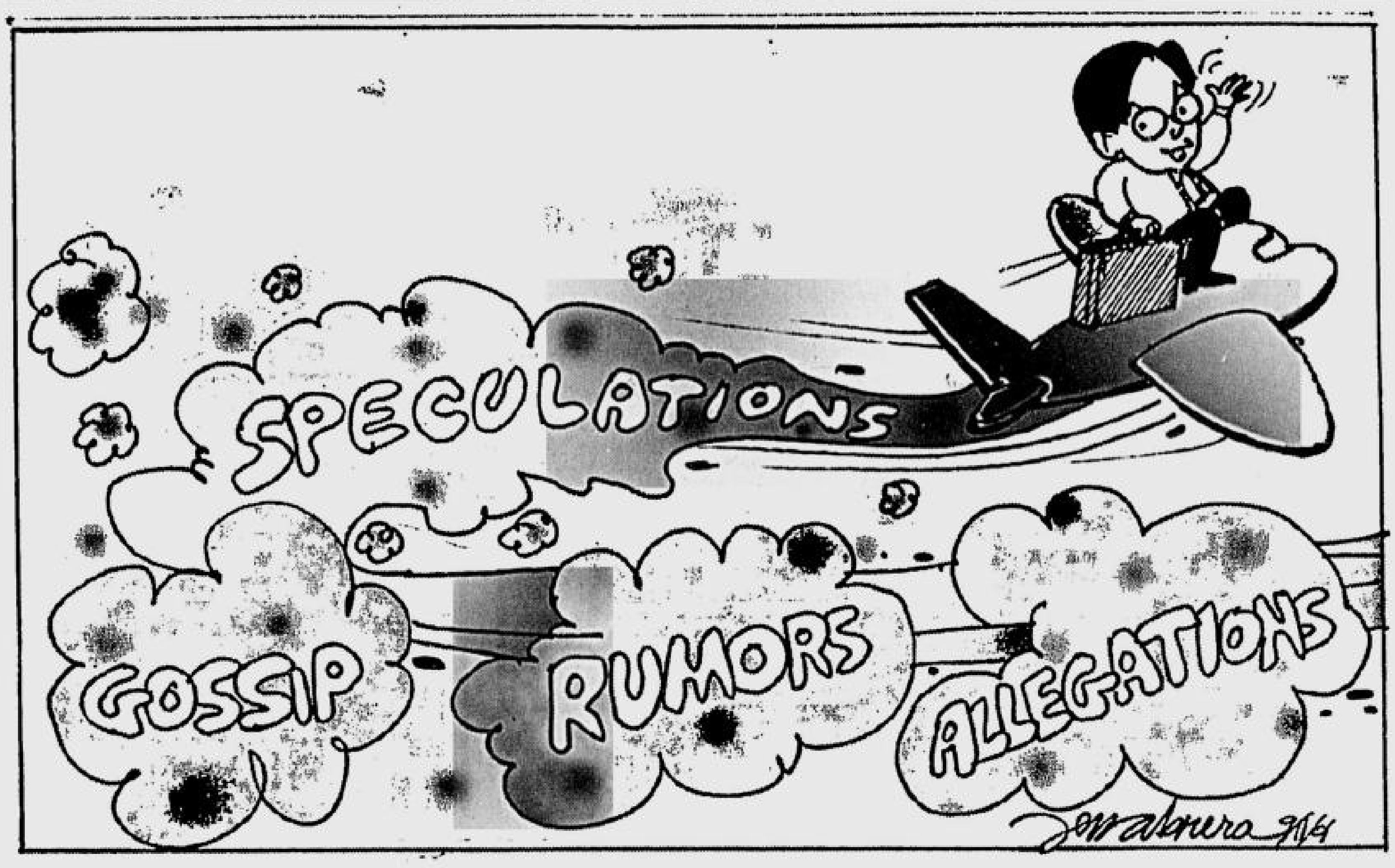

Heat

EDITORIAL

AT A DINNER with reporters last Friday, Sen. Panfilo Lacson complained that the money laundering and drug trafficking controversy hounding him was taking a toll on his health. He said he never thought that what he considered "a smear job" against him "would be this vicious, this cruel and this wicked."

We recall that Lacson, when he was still chief of the Philippine National Police, said that he was not entering politics. He was quoted as saying then: "I have no intention of getting involved in politics. I am a police officer, not a politician, and the only political act that I have engaged in is to cast my vote during elections." Apparently he had second thoughts because he did enter politics, ran for senator and won.

Lacson should have known what he was in for when he entered politics. He should have realized that politics was not going to be a picnic. When one enters politics, he becomes fair game for almost everybody. His entire life is scrutinized, his every feature, wart, trait, failing put under a microscope and then projected to public view.

He had a foretaste of that when he campaigned for senator. Now he asks why these charges are being brought against him only now. When he was in power as PNP chief, his accusers were afraid to air the charges against him because he was the second most feared, if not the most feared, government official at the time.

It will be recalled that at the height of Lacson's power as PNP chief, some of the vital witnesses in the Kuratong Baleleng case recanted and dropped out of the panel of witnesses. They knew that with Lacson in power, they had practically no chance of winning the case against him. Such is the reality of power and the criminal justice system in our country.

Lacson asks now why the present charges were not aired against him during the senatorial campaign. Oh, yes, some of the charges were brought up during the campaign, but the voters chose to ignore them. What happened with Joseph Estrada during the 1998 presidential campaign also happened with Lacson in 2001. The voters chose to believe all the propaganda about him.

As for the charges of money laundering, trafficking in drugs, kidnapping for ransom and other criminal activities, these are fairly recent ones. They surfaced only after Col. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the AFP, brought them up in an interview with the INQUIRER. The charges could not have been raised during the senatorial campaign because the Corpus team had not completed its investigation at that time. In fact, its inquiry is still going on.

Yes, we agree with the senator that politics can be cruel. The politician is continually exposed to the harsh and cruel glare of publicity. Things that he said or did in the past are dredged up. Everything that he is doing in the present is subject to the minutest scrutiny by people and the media. That is as it should be in a democracy where elective officials are accountable at all times to the people who placed them in positions of power.

In ancient Rome, the candidate for public office wore a white toga. The word candidate comes from the Latin *candidatus,* meaning clothed in white. The wearing of a white toga was supposed to signify that the candidate had an unblemished record and had only the purest of intentions in running for public office. Is this something we can say of all of our candidates, some of whom run for public office to earn impunity for their crimes and misdemeanors?

The transparency should not end when a candidate gets elected to public office. The elected public official should lead a life of transparency, openness and honesty. Election to public office does not, and should not, mean the condonation of crimes committed against the people. Otherwise, big criminals who amass millions from a life of crime can run for public office, buy elections and say that their election has absolved them of their crimes.

Lacson may complain of the cruelty of those who have hurled accusations against him. He may complain about the cruelty of the current investigative process and the Senate hearings. But he has to endure it if indeed he is not guilty. If he is innocent, then the Senate inquiry, and the court cases, if ever charges are filed in court, should clear him once and for all. Meanwhile, if he finds the present situation intolerably cruel and unbearable, he would do well to heed the advice of US President Harry S. Truman: "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen."

Murals by three national artists in real jeopardy

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHEN it comes to art, we are like barbarians. We don't take care of valuable works of art.

Some time ago, I wrote about the sad state of the Ossorio mural in Bacolod. Executive Director Virgilio Almario of the Commission on Culture and the Arts told me that he went to Bacolod to personally look at the mural after reading that column. Sad to say, it is really in bad shape and needs restoration, Almario said. It is exposed to the wind and that is bad for the paint and the canvas, he said.

Will the NCCA have it restored? Maybe. The trouble is, the mural is privately owned and the Commission on Audit may not allow the use of public funds for its repair.

The Ossorio mural is not the only one that needs watching and cleaning and restoration. Twenty-one big murals by three National Artists—Fernando Amorsolo, Carlos V. Francisco and Vicente Manansala—need caring, cleaning and restoration.

Like the Ossorio mural, Manansala's 14 Stations of the Cross at the University of the Philippines chapel is also open to the wind. The problem with that circular chapel is that it has no door panels that can be closed to protect the murals. Its many doors are always open. The murals are attached to the walls between the doors. When the wind is strong, it enters the chapel and hits the murals. When it is raining at the same time, the wind brings in raindrops as well and wets the murals. Worse, parts of the roof are leaking; water leaks directly to some of the 14 murals.

The murals are painted on *lawanit* boards which are very porous. It absorbs water and expands. When it expands, the oil pigments stretch and sometimes break. Cracks appear and in time, when nothing is done to preserve it, some of the paint will fall off.

The Manansala mural at the National Press Club is also painted on *lawanit* boards. This mural has been subjected to more than its share of insults and physical harm. It was pierced with nails and 4 x 4 lumber when the dining room was partitioned into several offices during martial law. Paint has been scratched off by tables and chairs pushed against the wall. The mural has been blackened twice by soot, and almost burned twice.

When I became president of the NPC, I had the mural cleaned by art restorer Susano Gonzales. Some of the soot was removed, but it was still dirty and gloomy. So I invited Manansala himself to look at it.

Manansala decided to retouch it. He recruited a number of artists to help him: Malang, Ang Kiukok, Gig de Pio, Cris Cruz, Ephraim Samson, and some others I can't remember anymore. The mural was restored to its former glory—by the original artist himself. That glory was short-lived.

Several NPC presidents later, another fire threatened it. It wasn't burned but soot again dirtied it. It was cleaned again, but not completely. Some of the dirt couldn't be removed. By that time, Manansala was already dead and nobody dared touch the master's work.

But the ultimate insult is that the union of NPC employees want to sell it at public auction to pay for the P9 million that the NPC management owes in unpaid wages and benefits.

The other murals in jeopardy are the four at the lobby of the Philippine General Hospital on Taft Avenue. These are among the earliest and best murals by Carlos V. Francisco.

Artist Bert Gallardo reported that the murals are in danger and have to be protected and preserved. He said there are cracks in the paintings; they are painted on canvas. They are not as exposed to the elements as the Manansala murals in the UP chapel, but being in the big lobby of the hospital, the wind—and the pollution from the exhausts of millions of vehicles on nearby Taft Avenue—may be wreaking havoc on them. At any rate, the colors of the paintings have become dull, dark and gloomy. (I looked at them myself.) The original colors of Francisco are bright and happy; they're not anymore. Maybe the murals are coated with dirt and grime and needs cleaning.

Two more murals in jeopardy are those by Fernando Amorsolo at the Metropolitan Theater at the foot of Quezon Bridge on Plaza Lawton. The theater is closed to the public so nobody sees or inspects these murals. Nobody knows what state they are in. Maybe rats have gnawed at them; maybe bats and birds have roosted on them and stained them with their droppings. Maybe the roof is also leaking and soaking the murals. Nobody knows. Manila officials are more concerned with finishing the Park N Ride building at the back of the Metropolitan Theater—although the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has already ordered a halt to the construction—than for the Amorsolo murals.

Now what are the people fighting for leadership of the NCCA, the Cultural Center or the National Museum going to do to protect and preserve our art treasures? They are part of our heritage. Let us save them.

* * *

Like I said, nobody would like to make his backyard the garbage dump of his neighbor. You yourself wouldn't want somebody throwing trash in your yard, would you? And that's how residents of Rodriguez (Montalban), Rizal, feel. They're opposed to making their municipality a dump for Metro Manila's garbage, and they're bent on blocking the dump trucks entering their territory. So Chair Benjamin Abalos of the Metro Manila Development Authority is back to square one. Like I said again, he should locate his dump in a place where it wouldn't bother anybody. It should be away from residential communities.

Time in

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I WAS about to entitle this column "Time out," but I changed my mind. I realized suddenly that this was not a distraction at all from weighty matters, this was a weighty matter unto itself.

This was the letter sent by a public school teacher who preferred to remain anonymous that appeared in the letters section last Friday. The writer identifies herself (since public school teachers are predominantly women, I will refer to the letter-writer as such) as a pre-school teacher in Iloilo. She is no expert in English, she says, English being only a second language to her, but she is confident she knows bad English when she sees one. And she saw one where she least expected to: in a licensure examination for secondary level teachers in English and Literature!

The test papers, she says, were full of grammatical errors of the crudest sort. Any journalist, English teacher or even college graduate could spot them a mile away. Unfortunately, she says, she could not take out any of the test items to prove her point as that was against the law. But she can still remember some of the items that showed so for those who are interested. Especially officials of the education department, whose attention she particularly wishes to call to this.

She personally found it insulting, she says, to take the test. "Here we are, struggling teachers trying to meet government requirements so we can keep our jobs, taking a national examination full of errors, and expected to pass it under the scrutiny of a computer." Her heart goes out, she says, to the teachers who took the test and would be presumed to have failed it when "in the first place, the test itself is a failure." The test is a farce, a mockery of the system, that DECS would do well to remedy.

She has begged the INQUIRER editors, however, to withhold her name as she fears that her airing these things in public might invalidate her exam. That this might be construed as an extension of taking out things from the testing room, which she swore not to do before she took the exam.

It would have been nice if the letter-writer had added audacity to perspicacity and identified herself freely, but that's gravy entirely. I certainly don't blame her for being a little reticent in that respect. Struggling teachers, to which tribe she confesses to belong, cannot afford to lose their jobs, and heaven knows how many public school teachers have been made to pay for lesser affronts since Isidro Cariño. It does seem reasonable to assume that people who do not care to do their jobs with care will not care to weigh merit carefully. Better to take better care of oneself.

But the fear may be completely baseless. I do not know that Education Secretary Raul Roco, who comes from a family of teachers, would not in fact be extremely appreciative of her gesture. If I myself rue the letter-writer's anonymity, it is only in that I do not have a face and name to attach my praises to. At the very least, she can count the public on her side, and at the very most, she can count the current leadership of DECS on her side. Scorn and reprisal are not the things she may expect by stepping forward and announcing herself to the world. A medal on the chest and pat on the back are.

Certainly, I cannot see how she could have failed the exam. Her letter itself is proof of her capability, quite apart from her dedication to her work. I do not know how much her letter was edited by the editors of the INQUIRER. I half-suspect very minimally, the sentences flowing easily into one another, which is a sign of clear thinking, whence comes good writing. Quite apart from that, the sensibility shown by the letter is a fine one, which is the mark of an educated person, if not indeed that of a literature teacher. And the tone is just right. There is no hint of immodesty when she says she felt insulted by the test. It was not boastfulness or an exaggerated sense of self that drove her to write this letter, it was concern.

Quite apart from this, in these days of much diminished expectations, it is good to know that there are still public school teachers who take their jobs very seriously. A profession that used to elicit much respect, if not awe, in the past, teaching in public schools—or teaching generally for that matter—has fallen into much disrepute over the last couple of decades. You say public school teacher, and the things that come to mind are test repeaters, prospective *Japayukis* waiting for their next contract and teaching PE in the meantime, and part-time vendors selling bras and *tocino*. With one blast, the writer of this letter has disabused us of these stereotypes. The DECS should be thankful.

Indeed, it is good to know that in these cynical times, people can still take great pride in their work. In these days, when people are content to do sloppy work thinking good intentions make up for it, it is good to know that some people still work hard at their craft and impose very high standards on themselves. The letter-writer reminds us that there are no naturally lofty professions—not teaching, not writing, certainly not engaging in politics or business—there are only naturally lofty people. It's how you do your work that makes it lofty. You could be a canal digger, a street sweeper, or a pizza delivery boy, and turn digging canals, sweeping streets and delivering pizzas into the noblest professions on earth. It's the pride you take in your work that makes it so.

I've always thought even begging carried with it the possibility of excellence, or at least that begging that has to do with inveigling charity not just by looking pitiful but by regaling passersby in overpasses with amplified guitar music from a transistor radio. What is discouraging or embarrassing, as the letter-writer suggests—*kahuluya gid ya*—is not the kind of work we do, it's how we do it.

Time out? I should think that is very much time in.

Making full use of ODA

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PRESIDENT Macapagal flies to Tokyo tomorrow on an official working visit at a very difficult time. Japan's economy still has to recover from a decade-long slowdown, and its new prime minister, like our President, is still being tried in the crucible of leadership.

Statements from the Japanese Embassy focus on the fact that, despite Japan's economic woes, it continues to support the Philippines. In 1999, Japan's official development assistance (ODA) to Philippines amounted to $8.83 billion. Only China and Indonesia got bigger amounts. The ODA recently came into focus here after President Macapagal, in her State of the-Nation Address, voiced her disappointment with the way such funds have been underutilized. This was blamed on the government's inability to raise the 20-percent counterpart funds. The administration, however, is inclined to believe that it was less a question of coming up with counterpart funds than the Estrada administration's negligence in utilizing the ODA well. Ms Macapagal is bent on proving to Tokyo that during her watch, this won't happen.

* * *

After reading that I tried to reach him over the weekend to ask about suspected drug lord Kim Wong's departure, his lawyer, Frank Chavez, rang me up yesterday to say he had just spoken with his client and they had a good laugh about speculations that Wong had left for good. Wong will come back when I tell him to do so, said Chavez.

I kidded him about rumors that Wong left to him his seafront restaurant at the Luneta as lawyer's fee, and Chavez quipped that "Frank Wong" doesn't sound half as good. He said he will prove that his client is not a drug lord, in the same way he disproved that Reiner Jacobi was a hoax. "Wong is merely a collateral casualty," said Chavez. "I would not have taken him as client if I knew he was a drug lord."

Chavez will have his chance to disprove the popular belief that the restaurateur is fronting for the Hong Kong triads.

* * *

Another point that new anti-drug czar Miguel Coronel stressed during the briefing on the drug menace at last Sunday's Katotohanan assembly at the Ateneo is the importance of strong family ties in preventing as well as fighting the drug problem. Coronel revealed that when asked what led them to drugs, victims invariably answered, "Family problems." Coronel exhorted the Katotohanan assembly to work unstintingly for "drug-free homes," saying Filipino homes are "our first line of defense" in the campaign against drugs.

* * *

I agree about the home being the first line of defense. It should be pointed out that as parents (fathers and mothers, not just the mothers, mind you) we ought to know our children well, the things they do and the company they keep. We ought to be friends with our children and spend time with them, so that we can impart strong lasting values that will carry them through life. One of the saddest realities of our times, however, is that many parents work overseas, leaving their children in the care of guardians, who, all too often, have neither the time nor the inclination to guide their wards. It's a fact that many children of OFWs get into drug habit, thanks to the over-indulgence of absentee parents.

The homes are only part of the community, but as Coronel lamented, in Filipino communities there is still widespread apathy toward the drug problem, apart from unsavory Filipino traits such as our crab mentality, propensity for credit-grabbing, etc. At this point the menace has become so frightening that all sectors of society ought to join hands in fighting it.

* * *

Every Sunday at 9:15 p.m. over dzRH, I join Cecile Guidote-Alvarez in her program, "Radyo Balintataw," to project various private-sector efforts to alleviate poverty. In past weeks we featured success stories about financial schemes to help the poor, but last Sunday we looked at the health issue. One of the guests was our INQUIRER colleague, ace photojournalist Mandy Navasero. Thanks to Makati civic leader Melon Recto-Silverio, Mandy got involved in the case of young patients at the Philippine General Hospital who are afflicted with sub-acute sclerosing pancephalitis (SSPE), which is largely unknown here. This is a deterioration of the nervous system due to complications arising from measles.

Mandy and Melon raised funds to help Jon-Jon Gutierrez Jr., 15, a son of a very poor Makati family, buy the expensive intravenous drug, costing P3,500 a vial, for his treatment. No sooner had Jon-Jon finished the treatment than many other victims came out from various parts of the country. In PGH alone, 52 patients are waiting in line, according to Dr. Aida Mendoza-Salonga, the neurology chief, and Dr. Bernie Chua.

Mandy learned that SSPE has several stages and that it is critical to catch the patient in stage 1 for effective treatment, as deterioration to stage 2 is very rapid. (In later stages doctors can give only palliatives.) What is even more urgent is that the health department launch a massive immunization program against measles, especially in the depressed areas where children are more susceptible to SSPE because of malnutrition. Perhaps civic organizations can help.

* * *

Today the friends and relatives of Ben-Hur Balboa bid him a fond farewell as his remains are cremated. Ben-Hur, 72, died after a heart attack in his home, but his health had been deteriorating since he had a sixtuple bypass 10 years ago, and the loss of his beloved wife, Vida Araneta, and young son Ted-Ted in a sea accident a few years back. His two children, Anna and Mon-Mon, arrived from abroad. Our deep condolences to them. Ben-Hur was a member of the UP College of Law Class '53, and among his classmates were Rafael Salas, Juan Ponce Enrile, Mike Tamano, Ponciano Mathay and Ramon Pedrosa. He finished high school at San Beda College, together with Mathay and his fellow *sabungero*, former Speaker Ramon Mitra. UPSCAns remember him as a Delaney boy, while Sigma Rhoans claim him as their "brod."

* * *

Pons Mathay, who served for a long time as Energy Regulatory Board chair, remembers Ben-Hur as a "good friend who was always fair" and who never let the ups and downs of life get to him. Mathay recalls that in the College of Law, while their classmates were engrossed with the nitty-gritty of the law, Ben-Hur was more interested in the philosophy of the law, the abstract principles.

My own friendship with Ben-Hur and Vida deepened after we joined a trip of editors and publishers to China in 1981. I remember him well as a philosopher, humanist and sharp political pundit. Blessed with a sparkling sense of humor and a good singing and speaking baritone, he was always the life of the party. He will be missed.

Scary news, scarier messages

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I AGREE that there's need for a concerted drive against illegal drug use in this country. As the Senate hearings starring Col. Victor Corpus, Ador Mawanay and Mary "Rosebud" Ong show, drug trafficking has become a most lucrative industry here indeed. If drug pushers are able to ply their trade in even the most remote barangays in the countryside, then they threaten the very future of this country. And if, as the witnesses trotted out by Corpus have claimed, drug dealers have spread their tentacles to the very highest levels of the police, military and political establishment, then they threaten the very foundations of our democracy.

Still, is the drug "menace" enough reason to frighten the entire populace with a public service message that seeks to bring home the message that the threat of drugs could affect every Filipino home?

The TV ad, sponsored by the new powers-that-be at the National Drug Enforcement Prevention Coordinating Center, shows a father agonizing over the threat posed by drugs and drug addicts on his family. He worries over his son being lured by pushers into trying illegal drugs and becoming an addict. But the man's worries over his wife and daughter stem only from the possibility of their being accosted by drug addicts and being physically harmed or, worse, raped or killed.

A knee-jerk reaction was, first, to wonder if teenage girls are not similarly under threat of being enticed to try drugs like their male friends and brothers. Don't parents worry just as much about their daughters using drugs as they do about their sons?

Then it occurred to me that the ad pandered precisely to the stereotypical fears that have kept women of all ages bound to the dictates of male relatives and society's expectations of a "decent" woman's behavior. Judging from the subtext of the ad, it seems that a daughter's or a wife's only value is her sexual purity or cleanliness. And that the worst violation against them is for a stranger, high on drugs or not, to breach that armor of chastity.

* * *

'THIS is not the first public awareness campaign on the "danger" of illegal drugs and chemical substances.

Indeed, it seems that every five years or so, our society is convulsed by fears of the drug menace, leading to new organizations, cries for new and tougher laws, and of course a whole new series of public service advertisements.

Well do we remember the "celebrity" status accorded to a rehabilitated drug addict who went on to star in movies and made the rounds of the campus circuit testifying about his addiction, recovery and "triumph." (He is now a minor star, playing mostly villain roles.) Or the fame attained by a foreign missionary who claimed to pioneer a "tough love" approach to drug rehabilitation, then helped found a drug recovery center that grew into a nationwide movement. At the height of his fame, the missionary left the priesthood and eventually the anti-drug movement, though he now claims to have established a new rehab center.

Then there was the series of public service ads, directed by actor Richard Gomez, which sought to "talk" directly to the youth about the menace of drugs. Elliptical, some say self-consciously "artsy," the ads were at least a departure from the sensational tone of many predecessors (and one adopted by the current campaign). This led directly to Gomez's involvement in Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga or MAD, which made a successful run for party-list seats in Congress, though it was later stricken off the list of accredited parties by the Comelec.

* * *

DESPITE this succession of campaigns and drives against drug users, pushers, traffickers and "lords" and their protectors, it seems the narcotics industry has flourished.

And the "menu" of mind-bending and mood-altering drugs has expanded so much that one is hard put catching up with the new code names of the hottest pills and powders on the market.

A friend, columnist Jarius Bondoc, says that it's time for parents to get alarmed about drugs when a small packet of *shabu* is cheaper than a bottle of cheap gin. "When I was a teenager, we had to pool our money to buy a *cuatro cantos* (a square-shaped bottle of gin) so we could get drunk and begin acting foolishly," he says. "Now, it's so easy for young people to find the money to score some *shabu* so they can get high."

Drive along any thoroughfare in the city, especially at night, and you'll doubtless catch sight of street children clutching paper or plastic bags that they hold up to their faces. Sniffing "rugby" or glue is the fastest, easiest way for these children to escape the hardships and misery of their hardscrabble lives. Which should prompt parents of drug-abusing children living in comfortable homes what it is their children seek to escape.

* * *

SPEAKING of glue-sniffing street children, it seems that one project under former DEP head retired Chief Supt. Jewel Canson, and supported by the MAD Foundation, was a home for street children in the DEP compound in Taguig.

The home for street children managed to gather about 200 drug-users from the city's streets, give them a roof over their heads, beds to sleep in at night, a school to attend and adults to relate to. It even managed to "graduate" a number who now hold down gainful jobs and have started their own families.

Unfortunately, under the new dispensation, the center has fallen from the list of priorities, and its previous supporters wonder if all the good work will be going down the drain.

Weaning a few hundred street children from their rugby dependency may not make much of a dent in the fight against narco-traffickers. But for the street children rescued from a life of degradation, it is the most important step of all.

A system of fortifications (II)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

ON THE ISLAND of Cuyo was a fort constructed on the beach within range from the sea of artillery fire. It was a fortification of masonry, square in shape with three bulwarks and orillons. On the eastern side was the entrance and from the angles of the two collateral bulwarks ran a strip that served as an ante-wall for the curtain.

The fort enclosed a church, convent, quarters for troops and some stores for the natives seeking refuge in times of invasion. Invasion's had been so frequent lately that the inhabitants with the help of the descalced Augustinians constructed the fort without any financial help from Manila and they maintained it by themselves, including equipment and ammunition. Only in cases of extreme necessity did Manila send gunpowder.

On the island of Linacupan, beside the town and on the edge of the sea, rose a rock whose ascent was difficult with only one access to the top. A plain extended over it and there a parapet of masonry had been constructed, surrounded and guarded by artillery. It dominated the town and defended its entrance so well that it couldn't be attacked without the attacker being attacked in return. Within was a church, quarters for the troops, some houses of refuge for the inhabitants and a natural spring that provided sweet and potable water. The inhabitants and the priests, without any aid from the central government, supported the fort. It was only during the administration of Gov. Fernando Valdes-Tamon (1739) that four cannons, the battery and gunpowder were sent for its defense.

On the island of Lutaya was the fort of San Juan Bautista, located on the beach within rifle shot from the sea. It was square, of masonry with four bulwarks and orillons. The entrance was in the middle and covered by a rectangular piece of masonry measuring 34 feet. It enclosed a church, convent and some houses. The island was once the *encomienda* of Antonio de Rojas, but it was now under the care of the Augustinians.

Construction of a fort in Culion begun in 1735 and took more than 25 years to finish. Built of lime and stone, it defended the plain where the town was situated. It was square, with four bastions and orillons with curtains measuring 90 feet. The entrance was situated on the eastern side and guarded by a rectangular piece of masonry. Like the forts earlier mentioned, its maintenance owed nothing to the government.

Leyte and Samar were two islands that were once considered a single unit. The one on the eastern part was called Ibabao, which today is known as Samar. Between the two islands is the strait of San Francisco where Miguel Lopez de Legaspi's galleons first passed. Between Samar and Luzon is the strait called San Bernardino. All the towns on both islands are on the coasts. Leyte's jurisdiction includes Capul, Maripipi and Panamao, renowned for the sulfur from its mines.

Samar and Leyte were covered with tall and dense forests whose lumber was preferred for the construction of galleons and were crisscrossed by mighty rivers. On the southern part of Leyte was a place called Tandaya, in honor of the datu who in 1543 welcomed Ruy Lopez de Villalobos. In the past, these islands had been preyed upon severely by the Moros, Mindanaos and Joloanos and because of this, they were depopulated.

Despite its mountainous topography, its fertile plains produced abundant rice and wax. Abaca and civet was obtained from its mountains. There was a lot of coconut oil and amber that was washed up on its shores. Like their neighbors in Negros, the inhabitants also used to paint their bodies.

Negros was once called Buglas, after the river of the same name. It was so near Cebu that in some places it was only a league away. In the interior, Negritos and other "infidels" populated the dense mountains. The plains were so fertile that they provided rice to the surrounding islands. There was an abundance of *gamoto (Cabo Negro)* that made very good rope, cacao and other fruits. Some pearls were found in its waters.

Caraga, on the island of Mindanao, was originally called Cesarea in 1543 after Carlos V. The province extended from Caraga on the north until Surigao to Hingoo to Cabo San Agustin to the famous cove of Agalooc where Corralat surrendered to Valdes-Tamon.

There was a great quantity of gold especially in the Butuan River as well as a lot of wax. Its cocoa was special in size, substance and abundance. There was also cinnamon and fruits.

The fort in Tandag, situated on the edge of the sea, was called San Jose. It was triangular in shape, with two uneven bastions and a semi-bulwark of masonry. The entrance was on the western side with a palisade and enclosure atop. Within was the garrison, quarters, storehouse for gunpowder and provisions.

Cateel had a square redoubt known as San Francisco measuring 27 feet on each side with a platform surrounded by a moat measuring six feet. Another redoubt or *fortaleza* called San Juan Bautista was situated south of Butuan in Linao, although this one was a wooden palisade with a platform with a moat measuring two meters around it.

The fort that once had a command of Pangil Bay is now obscured by a wharf, a terminal, a makeshift market and an innumerable number of tricycles. Even at 6 in the morning, the air is cloudy with poisoned exhaust fumes from diesel engines that you can barely make out the outline of the fort now in the hands of the military. Completed in 1756 under the supervision of Father Ducos, it was quadrilateral in shape with bastions in every corner. A fleet was permanently assigned to it under Pedro Tamparong of Iligan and Tomas Cabiling. The Iranuns who had earlier wreaked havoc on Misamis and the rest of the area were contained effectively.

Dating, sex and body shots

YOUNGBLOOD

Aurelio R. Lopez III

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

BLIND dates never work, and I'll tell you why. It's because you never know who you're going to end up with.

It's like one of those dating games on TV. You're the searcher, and your date's the "searchee." When you finally meet, you realize that you would have been better off not playing the game.

Why is it that no one really knows the person you're to be matched with—not even the guys who are supposed to be setting up the date? All you know is that she's the cousin of your classmate's sister's best friend or he's supposed to be your friend's cousin's phone pal. And your friends think you should be spending time with these people?

When at long last you see each other, it's like receiving a Christmas gift from someone who hasn't seen you in ages. "No, I do like it," you feel compelled to say. "But look at the size! What am I supposed to do with it?"

* * *

"We can still be friends."

Any guy who's ever gone out with a girl will tell you that this is one of the lines you don't want to hear a girl say to you.

"So, do you wanna go steady?"

"I'm sorry. But we can still be friends."

Translation: Not on your life, buddy!

I can just picture out Fay Wray telling King Kong: "Gee, Kong, you're a swell guy, and the view from the Empire State Building was so romantic. But I'm not really into dating big, hairy apes. We can still be friends, though."

* * *

Perhaps the most common activity during dates is eating. Men seem to be driven to take the girl out to lunch, dinner or just for a cup of coffee.

I think this is because men suffer from "praying mantis syndrome." You know, after a male and female praying mantis have sex, the female eats the male?

So when a guy takes a girl out to eat, he is probably saying to himself "'Maybe if I feed her now, she won't eat me after we have sex."

* * *

I read in the medical book "Clinical Nephrology" that for patients with chronic and renal failure "sexual life should be encouraged to the extent the patient and spouse are capable and interested."

Now that's the kind of therapy I wouldn't mind having. A doctor opens a closet filled with sexy women in swimsuits and says, "Take two of these and call me in the morning."

* * *

Sex is like a space shuttle launch. Everything has to be perfect. A slight miscalculation may cause cancellation, and worse, it might be weeks before conditions are perfect again.

However, impotence is like a space shuttle emergency. "Houston, ground crew here. We've got ourselves a situation here. We don't know what's wrong, but it ain't goin' up."

* * *

Do you know that when a man has an orgasm, he releases up to 300 million sperm cells?

Only one out of those 300 million gets to fertilize the egg. Incredible! It's like having 300 million guys applying for the same job. The secretary comes out and says, "Okay, listen. The boss says she can only hire one of you. The rest of you can just pack up and die."

* * *

I had sex the other day—cybersex, that is. No particular reason. Just wanted to try it.

Unfortunately, I've come to the conclusion that it just doesn't do it for me. I don't see what the big deal is. I mean, think about it:

Two individuals are engaged in sex over the Net. "I am so very feeling very hot for you," one tells the other.

Huh? Let's face it: half the people in chat rooms can't speak right anyway. The other half can't even type well. That's why I couldn't understand why a girl (at least someone who claimed to be one) wanted to hold my "clock."

* * *

Advertisers overestimate the influence of sex in advertising. Take for instance the poster advertising a brand of men's underwear featuring a half-naked female movie star. Who's gonna be wearing the underwear—she?

There also used to be this commercial for a brand of rum. In the ad, a voluptuous babe says to her man, "*Sa aking buhay, ang hanap ko'y ikaw.*" Then the guy responds, "*Sa aking buhay, ang hanap ko'y* (and he mentions the brand of rum)."

A nymphomaniac and an alcoholic—the perfect couple.

* * *

One thing I can't understand is why women are plucking their eyebrows. Is the pain really necessary? I've never been to a P.O.W. camp, but I bet plucking eyebrows is one of the methods of torture in such places. I'm positive they chain the prisoners to the wall, and a guy goes at them with a tiny pair of tweezers.

That's why I think women should be assigned on commando missions. That way, if they get caught, they can bear all the torture sessions.

"Dang!" the enemy would say. "We've plucked both her eyebrows, and she's still not talking, sir."

"Let her go then. We're not going to get anything out of her."

Aurelio R. Lopez III, 23, is a freelance writer based in Iloilo City.

The Unsound Body

Aurelio R. Lopez III

ONE day I was walking past a beauty salon when I saw a sign that said: " Hair Relaxing for P250 only."

How can one relax his hair, I wonder. I mean, it's not like you can go, "Awww, did hair have a bad day today? Have a cup of coffee, and put your feet up. Relax."

Actually, hair is a dead part of our body, and that makes the whole idea even more ridiculous. Now it's like you're asking some dead guy to relax.

* * *

Chicks dig scars, I've been told by friends. Girls are supposed to find scars and bandages very attractive.

I guess that would make King Tut hotter than Ricky Martin, wouldn't it?

* * *

Latissimus dorsi, semimembranosus, levator labii superioris, iliopsoas—these are all names of some of the muscles found in the human body. But I don't see why scientists had to go through all the trouble of giving muscles such complicated names. Couldn't they have simply called them muscle A, muscle B, and so on? I don't think even doctor's memorize the names of all the muscles.

Imagine a nurse telling a surgeon, "Doctor, the patient has sustained injury in his adductor brevis." I wouldn't blame him if he retorted, "For heaven's sake, nurse, just point!"

This whole muscle business is really becoming a pain in the *gluteus maximus*.

* * *

I don't believe anyone likes going to the dentist. The mere mention of the word conjures unpleasant images of tooth extraction and drilling.

Have you ever noticed that the moment you open your mouth and the dentist has his hands so far in it that he could just rip off your tonsils, he suddenly decides to be your pal?

"So, how are you feeling today?" he asks, and all you can do is pray you don't choke on your spit when you answer.

Another reason we aren't thrilled by the idea of keeping appointments with the dentist is the dental chair reminds us of an electric chair. We're strapped to it, and the dentist pushes the button. Any last requests?

LETTERS

Taiwan deserves UN seat

AN INJUSTICE is being committed by the international community against the 23 million people living in Taiwan with the continued exclusion of the Republic of China from membership in the United Nations.

There are compelling reasons why Taiwan ought to get back its UN seat:

First, the Republic of China is a founding member of the. United Nations and has faithfully fulfilled its obligations under the UN Charter since 1945. It was one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council until October 1971, when the 26th session of the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 2758 to admit mainland China as a UN member and the ROC withdrew from the world body.

Resolution 2758 recognized Chinese communist jurisdiction over the China mainland but did not consider the fact that the two sides of the Taiwan Straits are ruled by distinct political entities. We must draw attention to the fact that the Chinese communist authorities have never extended their jurisdiction to the Taiwan area. No other entity but the Republic of China government can represent the 23 million people in Taiwan in the UN.

The rights of Taiwan's 23 million residents have not been represented in the UN and its specialized agencies for the past three decades. This is unfair and unreasonable. We feel that denying our right to participate in the UN is a violation of the principle of universality that it seeks to uphold.

Second, participation in the UN has become the common desire of all the ROC people. We are striving to enter the UN to seek our right to take an active role in a changing international environment and to contribute, to the solution of global problems.

We would like to emphasize that the ROC's efforts to join the UN do not conflict at all with the "one China" principle. If the ROC can participate in the UN, there will be more opportunity for contact between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait. ROC participation in the UN would benefit mutual interaction between the two sides and lead to the unification of China as well.

Since China is currently divided and ruled by two separate political entities, both sides should enjoy the right of "parallel representation" in the UN. The term "parallel" naturally implies that neither side must attach itself to the other. The former East and West Germany as well as North and South Korea are obvious examples. The case of East and West Germany has proved that parallel membership in the UN does not hinder the eventual unification of a divided nation.

Third, the international community cannot ignore the power and existence of the Republic of China. The ROC is the 14th largest trading country in the world. Its per capita income exceeds US$10,000, which is the 25th highest worldwide. Its foreign exchange reserves rank among the highest in the world. It also participates in over 800 international private organizations and has established 127 agencies in 90 countries with which it has no diplomatic ties in order to promote beneficial substantive relations. ,These agencies serve most of the functions of embassies and consulates.

The rapid growth of democracy and the economy in Taiwan has convinced the ROC and its people that they should have more room for international maneuver. The 23 million people in the ROC hope that the world can understand and share in the fruits of Taiwan's growth, and help us to play a more active role in the international community.

Nine years ago, the ROC began to ask the UN to review the exceptional situation faced by Taiwan and to work out measures to let Taiwan's voice be heard in the world body. The ROC's bid has been consistently shot down by Beijing and has failed to make the agenda of the annual UN General Assembly for the past nine years. We are convinced, however, that with its outstanding economic achievements and smooth democratization, the ROC is more than qualified for a U.N. seat.

We seek the support of all countries, including the Philippines, for the resumption of our participation in the UN. Continued exclusion of the ROC on the basis of the Chinese communists' objections or out of fear of their hegemonic power runs counter to the spirit of freedom, peace and justice which the UN represents.—**ROBERT T.J. SHIH, director, Information Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines, 2/F Low Rise Tower, Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City**

Traffic enforcers unfit for the job!

FIRE all traffic enforcers! Instead of easing traffic flow, they worsen it. Besides, the MMDA chair himself admits that only a third of the more than 2,000 enforcers are qualified for the job.

Have you passed Quezon Avenue in Quezon City lately? The traffic situation there keeps getting worse. The untimely road construction, the non-functioning traffic lights, and the ignorance and inefficiency of traffic enforcers have all contributed to this hellish situation.

Maybe, it's time for us to get rid of traffic enforcers and just allocate what we're spending for their salaries to the repair of traffic lights. If these enforcers want to retain their jobs, they must be efficient and see for themselves whether they're making the traffic situation better or just adding to the stress people on the road already have a lot of.—**JOAN OANES, CSSP-UP Diliman, Quezon City**

Literacy and politics

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

MANY Filipinos know Sept. 8 is the birthday of the Virgin Mary, but only a handful are aware it is International Literacy Day. It's not just another one of those many dates fixed by the United Nations. This year, in the United States, the first lady considered it important enough to use the day to launch a national book festival, ostensibly "to promote literacy." An American government official who was with Bush explained that illiteracy is a "persistent problem in America, and it's steadily growing."

In neighboring Canada, which for years has ranked first in the Human Development Index, there were also activities for International Literacy Day with officials noting that one of every five Canadian adults had serious problems with reading and writing, to the point where some are not even able to understand a bus schedule, or to use medicines in the correct doses.

We boast of having one of the highest literacy rates in Asia—more than 9 percent—but how much of that is functional? To answer that, we would have to get back to the definitions of literacy. Literacy used to be equated with two of the "three R's" of education: reading and 'riting (with 'rithmetic as the third). Today, educators say the reading and writing have to be linked with "oracy" or speaking and listening.

Unfortunately, our educational system still separates the reading and writing from oracy. We associate literacy with a mechanical rote learning of the letters of the alphabet, followed by recognition of syllables and words. Most of our schools still use this approach, and stop there.

Literacy education involves the packaging of different skills. Reading has to be brought closer to the students' own experiences, which means they should learn to read using their mother language, Cebuano for example, and not Tagalog-based Filipino or English.

There's more to the reading texts than language. Young children need to be able to relate not just to the words but to the themes and settings of the stories. This is where the mentoring comes in, teachers and parents or guardians helping to put some sense into all the images that come in through the books.

Lina Diaz de Rivera of the University of the Philippines College of Education has written a very useful book, "Literature-based Reading Programs," that explains how schools can stimulate these reading skills. This goes beyond traditional "reading aloud" activities to include a variety of individual and group activities for reading, writing and "inquiry," where students explore, at greater depth, the themes of their books.

After reading Lina's book, I realized that in our system, reading itself becomes an end in itself rather than a means. Students fail to see how reading can open new worlds for them. One could argue (and I've actually heard parents saying this) that books are expensive and there's television anyway. But I've written about this in the past: television talks "at" you, not "with" you. It bombards you with images and sound bytes, which is all very entertaining but only occasionally educational.

Reading, on the other hand, hones the analytical skills. In a way you're talking with the author, pausing to agree or disagree before moving on. In schools, the reading is linked to writing book reports for example, which allows teachers to check on how the students are processing what they read. (Unfortunately, teachers are loaded with large classes and the book reports degenerate into useless rituals.)

The reading and writing should feed into "oracy," the ability to speak and listen. Both the schools and the home need to nurture the links between reading and writing and "oracy" so that they come together to produce a literate person. This is why it is important for parents or elder relatives to read to the young and to stimulate questions and answers ("So, what do you think happened next?"; "And why do you think the little rabbit did that?"; etc.)

Children have great potentials for oracy and literacy but our schools and homes stifle, maybe even snuff out, that potential. Our educational system conditions kids to associate books with stern teachers and parents rapping them on their knuckles when they can't put the letters or words together. Books are associated with the imposed silence of classrooms and libraries and sometimes even homes ("Oh, you keep quiet *na* and read your assignment").

When books become assignments, then we detach them from the world, from life. Out there is an exciting and colorful world but because we don't process that world through a literacy package— reading, writing, speaking, listening—public information and education degenerates into gossip, rumors and exposés circulating through the mass media, the Internet and text messages.

Literacy education teaches us to be logical, clear and coherent. But such programs seem to be losing out, no match for the television debate shows where you "win" by having the loudest voice, or being the most aggressive at grabbing the microphone and interrupting other people.

There's more to literacy than understanding bus schedules or medicine labels. A literate citizenry is one that understands the value of listening to all sides, separating fact from fiction, sensing when there's still missing information and taking efforts to look for more facts. (I said facts, not hearsay testimony.) As we become truly literate, then we become less gullible, less prone to being fooled by the gimmickry of ads and marketing campaigns, or by the shrill and sterile rhetoric of politicians.

* * *

Comments can be sent to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Pharmacia and Pfizer address cardiorenal safety issues with Celebrex.

Doctors affirm safety of popular arthritis drug Celebrex

by Mike Gomez

Filipinos suffering from arthritis can continue to take their celecoxib medication with confidence based on studies made by American researchers.

Rather than prescribing the traditional non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) to ease the pain for patients with arthritis, doctors prefer to prescribe medicines known as Cox-2 inhibitors, the most widely prescribed of which is Celecoxib, sold internationally as Celebrex. These advanced medications are preferred for a variety of patients because they provide pain relief with very much less risk of suffering unpleasant side effects to the stomach that are usually associated with the traditional NSAIDs. These gastric side effects could range from mere discomfort to actual bleeding.

Pharmacia & Pfizer believe that conclusions raised by two clinicians in a study published in a recent issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) are flawed. The authors of the article conducted and made invalid comparisons between patient groups that led to misleading conclusions. It is important for arthritis patients to realize that the interpretation of study data in the JAMA article was flawed, and that they can continue to take their medicine for arthritis and pain relief with complete peace of mind.

Dr. Sandra V. Navarra, a leading rheumatologist in the Philippines further comments on this article. "The authors do state the limitation of their article in the final paragraphs of the discussion – i.e. the heterogeneity of the study populations – but these were largely downplayed by the a) misleading title; and b) incompletely stated results which highlighted the "Cardiovascular Risk" without first discussing the limitations of their literature sources (which is essential when one does an unbiased review article) Furthermore, Dr. Navarra adds "the favorable effect of celecoxib on the safety aspect over the traditional NSAIDs is a factor for this medicine to be the most widely prescribed medicine for arthritic patients."

In addition, Pharmacia & Pfizer stand behind the renal safety of Celebrex. This action by the two companies came in response to a letter published in the June 16th issue of the Lancet, describing 11 cases of ***possible*** interstitial nephritis in patients receiving celecoxib, but a definite diagnosis was not made in any of these cases and the association never affirmed. Pharmacia and Pfizer maintain that this anecdotal report on celecoxib does not support any conclusions about renal safety that would differ from, or counter, the product label or findings reported in extensive long-term safety studies of CELEBREX, including the Celecoxib Long-term Arthritis Safety Study (CLASS), which was published in **JAMA** last fall.

Dr. Whelton, a leading cardiologist from Australia, with his colleagues showed in well conducted studies that Cox-2 inhibition in healthy elderly subjects may spare renal (kidney) hemodynamic function.

The two firms promoting Celebrex in the Philippines, Pharmacia and Pfizer, stand behind the medicine as an innovative treatment for arthritis patients. This is now the number one prescribed medicine for arthritis in the Philippines. This assertion is supported by the studies conducted for the New Drug Application (NDA), the 8,000 patient Celebrex Long-Term Arthritis Safety Study (CLASS) trial, and other post marketing surveillance worldwide covering an estimated 21.5 million patients or 10.6 million patient –years experience (assuming an average treatment period of six months).

In summary, Celebrex represents a breakthrough in the treatment of arthritis giving quality of life for patients suffering from this illness.

ADVT

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

WHO: Asia making headway vs AIDS

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—The World Health Organization (WHO) opened an annual regional meeting here yesterday amid signs of progress in Asia's tough battle against AIDS, but officials said more challenges lay ahead.

WHO regional director Shigeru Omi, in a keynote speech to the meeting in the capital of the oil-rich sultanate of Brunei, lauded the certification of the Western Pacific region as a polio-free area last October.

The Western Pacific region includes East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific islands. Some 100 delegates, including health ministers of member countries, are attending the Brunei meeting.

"It is also a year in which we can cautiously note some successes in the battle against AIDS in the region," Omi said.

"Cambodia has the highest HIV prevalence in Asia and a few years ago many experts doubted whether any reduction could be expected in the near future. However, recently published data have shown a marked and sustained decrease in HIV prevalence in Cambodia," he said.

"This is a very significant achievement and one that we shall be looking at more closely in the week ahead," the regional director added.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, in which the body loses its natural defenses against disease, is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

"These important success stories should not blind us to the health challenges that face us," Omi warned, citing mental health and food safety as issues that affect every country in the region.

"These problems are not decreasing. On the contrary, in most countries, mental illness and disability and foodborne illnesses are imposing increasing burdens on health services," he added.

WHO chief Gro Harlem Brundtland also addressed the conference and lauded the region, particularly host country Brunei, for its achievements in the field of health.

She said improvement in health was "a critical element of the fight against poverty" and "the global imperative for this decade."

The signs of progress in Asia's struggle against AIDS followed the WHO's release of data last month showing that the death rate of adults in Asia will rise by up to 40 percent in some countries the coming decade.

The WHO has called on Asian countries to aggressively implement HIV prevention programs for drug users, including the controversial practice of providing clean needles to ensure safe injection practices.

The WHO report released by its Manila-based Western Pacific regional office said that for most moderately-affected countries, annual deaths among adults will increase by five percent in the coming decade due to AIDS.

In areas most affected—Cambodia, Burma, Thailand and a few states in India—the death rates of adults could rise 40 percent, the WHO warned.

India alone could see a third of a million deaths due to AIDS in 2005, the WHO forecast.

AFP

A BUS burns where a car bomb exploded at Beit Lid junction near Netanya Sept. 9. A Palestinian suicide bombing, car bomb explosion and a West Bank shooting killed seven people on Sunday in a frenzy of violence that threatened efforts to convene truce talks. REUTERS

Suicide bomber was an Israeli Arab, says Israel

ABU SNAN, Israel—If it turns out that Muhammad Saker Habashi was the one who blew himself up in Israel's north on Sunday, it would be a milestone: the first time an Arab with Israeli citizenship turned himself into a human bomb.

During nearly a year of Palestinian-Israeli fighting, Israel's minority Arab community has become increasingly radicalized. Embittered by neglect from successive Israeli governments and following increasingly strident Arab members of parliament, Israeli Arabs are identifying closely with the struggle of their Palestinian relatives to end Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Several Israeli Arabs have been arrested on charges of planning attacks or helping Palestinian militants. But until Sunday, none was suspected of taking the most extreme step—blowing himself up in a crowd of Israelis.

Israeli officials say Habashi, 48, was apparently the Nahariya bomber. His blue Israeli identity card was found next to the shattered body of the suicide attacker who set off an explosive charge on this back near the train station, killing himself and three others and wounding dozens.

In Habashi's home village of Abu Snan in the foothills of Israel's Galilee region, just 13 km from Nahariya, relatives and neighbors were hesitant to talk. Some refused to believe that Habashi was the bomber. "We never thought any sane person could do a thing like that," said Rafik Nasrah, a neighbor.

Last week Israeli police announced the arrest of four Israeli Arab teenagers suspected of planning to plant bombs in Israel, the latest evidence of the increasing alienation of the community, which makes up about 20 percent of Israel's population.

AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Sacramento shooting spree

SACRAMENTO, California—A suspended security guard killed three coworkers and a fourth man, stopping during the rampage to call in threats to other employees at his former company, police said. Police believe Joseph Ferguson, 20, went on the rampage late Saturday night and early Sunday, then handcuffed another guard and fled in her car. He remained at large Sunday and was believed to be armed and possibly wearing a bulletproof vest. *AP*

Belarus leader reelected

LUKASHENKO

MINSK, Belarus—Alexander Lukashenko swept to a second term yesterday as president of isolated Belarus on promises to merge with Russia and stand up to the West, according to election results his chief challenger called fraudulent. After a tense campaign and voting day, the Central Election Commission said early yesterday the incumbent had 75.6 percent of the vote, according to a preliminary count. Lukashenko—dubbed Europe's last dictator by his foes for his crackdown on independent media and political opponents—had widely been expected to win. *AP*

Jewish Museum in Germany

BERLIN—Germany celebrated the gala opening of a national Jewish Museum on Sunday, unveiling for the first time exhibits spanning two millennia of Jewish history in Germany inside a dramatic zinc-clad building, which even empty attracted 350,000 visitors. Berlin has struggled with the concept of a Jewish museum for over a quarter of a century, making the official opening a historic celebration feted by 850 invited guests, including German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, President Johannes Rau, Henry Kissinger and Ronald S. Lauder also attended. *AP*

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy	HI 24° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 27°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 27°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 27°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 27°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/09/11/01

ROUNDUP

Rallies for Muslim detainees

MATI, Davao Oriental—Local Muslim groups will stage rallies in front of the provincial capitol next week to press for the immediate release of 31 suspected Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels who have been detained at the provincial jail since July last year. The detainees were arrested at the height of military offensives against the MILF last year, but the cases filed against them have not moved. Adam Evaresto of the United Youth of the Philippines said a huge turnout was expected in the rallies.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Rebel 'taxes' continue

BAGANGA, Davao Oriental—Businessmen here and in the neighboring towns of Cateel, Caraga and Boston continue to give "revolutionary taxes" to communist rebels for fear of being killed, according to the military. Maj. Alexis Gopico, commander of the Army's 8th Special Forces Battalion, cited the case of Nelio Opalia, who was attacked by New People's Army rebels for not paying revolutionary tax. He said the rebels were demanding P100,000 to P1 million.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Fake raffle draw

DAVAO CITY—The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in Southern Mindanao has warned the public against persons posing as representatives of an NDCC (National Disaster Coordinating Council)-sponsored raffle draw, promising as much as P1.9 million in prize money. OCD regional director Carmelo Lupo said the syndicate was luring victims through telephone calls, telling them that they had won the raffle pot of P1 million to P1.9 million. The prize, however, can be claimed only when one pays P7,500, purportedly as Special Power of Attorney's fee, payable to a bank account number.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Marijuana plants uprooted

DAVAO CITY—Some P65,000 worth of marijuana plants and seedlings were uprooted by authorities in Barangay Bulol-Salo in Kiblawan, Davao del Sur, on Friday. Members of the 1103th Police Regional Mobile Group, the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division and the Kiblawan police uprooted some 3,000 fully grown marijuana plants and 1,500 seedlings. Some plants were burned in the field while the rest were brought to the regional police headquarters here. The suspected planters escaped upon sensing the arrival of the raiding teams.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Loans for gov't employees

NAGA CITY—The Quedan Corp., a government lending institution catering to the agriculture and agribusiness sectors, has opened its loan program to government employees beginning Sept. 1, said Rene Enciso, the agency's regional manager. But, he said, the loans would be extended only to employees receiving a net salary of at least P2,000 a month, after deducting payment of loans from other lending institutions. Quedan charges 12-percent interest and one-percent service fee on loans that are payable within a period of up to three years.

PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

1 killed in tractor mishap

BALANGA CITY—A high school student was killed while four others were hurt when a farm tractor hit a group of pedestrians in Hermosa, Bataan on Wednesday last week. Police identified the fatality as Sheila Mae Salcedo, 16, of Lubao, Pampanga. Injured were Danilo Poblete, 30; Michael Cabais, 9; Rodolfo Fernandez, 16; and Melissa Fernandez. Reports said Romeo Igaya, the tractor driver, lost control of the farm vehicle when he avoided a man crossing the street in Barangay Balsik in Hermosa. The tractor swerved and hit the victims who were waiting for a ride to school.

Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Hotel rates up in Naga

NAGA CITY—Hotel rates here have jumped by as much as 100 percent as the Peñafrancia Festival, a much-awaited religious festival in Bicol, approaches. All of the downtown hotels have been receiving requests for reservations since March, mostly for a three-day stay with advance payments. The Peñafrancia Festival focuses on the devotion to the Our Lady of Peñafrancia. Some 500,000 devotees from all over the world witness the *traslacion* (fluvial procession).

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NPA suspects kill 3 cops

LEGAZPI CITY—At least three policemen were killed by suspected communist rebels in separate incidents within one week. Reports reaching Camp Ola showed that the victims were shot at close range. On Aug. 27, three suspected New People's Army rebels shot and killed SPO1 Edgardo Monares, 42, of the Regional Mobile Group near his house in Barangay San Francisco in Guinobatan, Albay. SPO1 Diomedes Abellano was killed while driving a patrol car in Barangay Tupas in Donsol, Sorsogon. On Aug. 30, SPO1 Ricky Bananea of the police regional support group was killed at his cousin's house in Barangay Puro here. ***Job Belen and Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

AFP-MILF ceasefire starts in Lanao, Maguindanao

By Edwin O. Fernandez
and Charlie C. Señase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Malacañang has stepped in to stop soldiers and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels from shooting each other in Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte.

Presidential adviser Norberto Gonzales, accompanied by Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema, met with MILF officials and agreed to a cessation of hostilities beginning 7 a.m. yesterday in Datu Piang and Shariff Aguak in Maguindanao and affected towns of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.

"The President was very concerned with the plight of displaced families at a time when there's supposed to be a peace negotiation between the government and (the) MILF," Sema told radio dxMS here.

Sema, secretary general of the Moro National Liberation Front, is an adviser of the government panel talking peace with the MILF..

Sema said Malacañang has sent Gonzales to bring her message to the MILF "that this government is really for peace and (was) very concerned about the situation of refugees."

"Effective 7 a.m. yesterday, the rifles, mortars and howitzers of both sides have been completely silent," Eid Kabalu, speaking for the MILF, said.

Kabalu stressed that the ceasefire also covered areas in Lanao del Norte where fighting broke out on Saturday.

He said the "arrangements" stated that representatives from the military, MILF and Malacañang had agreed that soldiers and MILF fighters will return to their positions before the skirmishes broke out two weeks ago.

They also agreed that the military will stop its offensive so that displaced families can return to their homes, and that the MILF leaders will inform their field commanders beginning Sunday afternoon until 6 a.m., Monday about the "arrangements."

"It's a reprieve on our part. We do not want really to engage the rebels because of the ceasefire agreement but we cannot allow them to just attack our troops," Army Maj. Julieto Ando, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said.

"We maintain our defensive position but would always fight back if attacked by enemies," he said.

Army units in Datu Piang and Shariff Aguak have maintained their neutrality in family feuds involving MILF field commanders, he added.

"We (were) only dragged into the conflict when we ran after the ambushers of (Maguindanao) Governor (Andal) Ampatuan and after our detachments were harassed," he added.

On Saturday, soldiers and Moro rebels clashed while a joint team of police, militia and Army forces served warrants of arrest against Manto Tambungalan and 37 others in connection with the ambush of Ampatuan.

The government troops were heading toward Barangay Pigeg in Shariff Aguak when they were attacked. One militiaman was killed.

Kabalu described reports of Saturday's incident as ridiculous. "One Army battalion serving warrants of arrest against the suspected ambushers of Governor Ampatuan?" he asked. "That's a police matter," he said.

But Supt. Omar Pango Ali, speaking for the police in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, acknowledged that it was a police action, but that a platoon of soldiers was requested to escort the policemen who were serving the warrants against heavily armed suspects identified as MILF guerrillas.

The skirmishes triggered another exodus of civilians who had earlier returned home following a three-day lull in the fighting.

Relief and social welfare agencies have arrived to address the needs of the new refugees, according to Bai Sambay Suwaib, administrative and finance officer of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in the ARMM.

"Non-government organizations are assisting us. Now that there's a ceasefire, we can go full swing," she said.

DOWN THE DRAIN

JOAN BONDOC

A resident of Barangay Bangan in Botolan, Zambales gazes at the South China Sea, the final destination of water being drained from the crater-lake of Mt. Pinatubo through the Bucao River.

500 WWII bombs unearthed

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Police unearthed more than 500 pieces of 155-mm bombs from the same compound where they recovered some 300 World War II-vintage bombs in April.

SPO4 Pantaleon Estojero, overall supervisor of the Explosives Ordnance Disposal Team in Eastern Visayas, said his men were in a village in Marabut town, Samar on Sept. 7 to detonate some of the bombs.

The bombs were recovered from a compound owned by Lilia Santiago in Barangay 64, Sagkahan-Bliss, this city.

These were dug from where a jeepney junk used to stand, Estojero said. The vehicle was apparently placed there so that the buried bombs could not easily be detected, he added.

More old bombs were expected to be recovered from the compound, he said.

Santiago, wife of a retired military official who had died, is facing charges of illegal possession of ammunition for stashing war-vintage bombs dug from various areas in Leyte and recycling the gunpowder into pyrotechnics and dynamites.

About 300 bombs were discovered from the compound after an explosion occurred in the area on April 29.

An EODT team recovered unexploded ordnance in an open pit while 155 bombs were found buried in the ground, some of them up to eight feet deep.

Police also discovered 34 sacks of ammonium nitrate and some cartons reportedly used in the manufacture of pyrotechnics.

The EODT members started digging again on Sept. 3 after former workers in the compound revealed the existence of more buried bombs.

Estojero said they learned from an informant that torpedo and incendiary bombs weighing 1,000 to 5,000 pounds were believed to have been buried near the abandoned house inside the compound.

No grand party on Marcos b'day

BAGUIO CITY—Due to bad weather, members of the Marcos clan could not attend the celebration of the 84th birthday of the late President Ferdinand Marcos today, thus postponing what seemed to be a grand party in his native Batac town in Ilocos Norte.

Ilocos Norte Vice Gov. Windell Chua told the INQUIRER by telephone on Monday that the festivity would be held instead on Sept. 28 to coincide with the 12th death anniversary of Ilocos' favorite son.

Marcos' refrigerated body has been lying at the Marcos mansion in Batac since it arrived from Honolulu in September 1993.

Chua issued the statement to provincial and local officials after Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos went to the Ilocos Norte capitol to confirm that her mother and only brother could not make it to the celebration.

He said former first lady Imelda Marcos and Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. cancelled their flight Monday to Ilocos Norte on advice of the pilot who said the plane could not land at the Laoag International Airport due to bad weather.

Marcos' birthday was supposed to start with a military and civic parade and a thanksgiving Mass.

The Marcoses, along with provincial and local officials in Ilocos Norte, were scheduled to unveil the memorabilia of the late president at the Mariano Marcos State University in Batac.

They will also inaugurate an exhibit at the Marcos Mansion and sponsor various contests as part of the tribute to Marcos who ruled the country for 20 years.

Gobleth Moulic, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

2.8M Pinoys can't read, write, says DECS exec

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—In today's era of globalization and the popularity of cyber-technology, millions of Filipinos are still reeling from illiteracy, according to a top education official.

Ramon Bacani, undersecretary for regional operations, said that in the urban and rural areas in the country, many Filipinos do not know how to read and write, much more do simple arithmetic operations or counting.

He cited a survey conducted by the Functional Literacy Education and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) showing that 2.8 million Filipinos could not read and write while 7.4 million are functionally illiterate.

Functionally illiterate persons are those who cannot read, write, count and have not used their cognitive, affective and physical capabilities to better their lives.

But Bacani said the government was not remiss in its duty to educate Filipinos.

"In the early '90s, the education-for-all (policy) was set off to eradicate illiteracy in the country. Thus, the Literacy Coordinating Council (LCC) was created through Republic Act No. 7165 and it is now leading the mass movement in the literacy program," Bacani pointed out.

He said the council did not only put emphasis on mechanical literacy or the reading and writing levels, but also on functional literacy that includes simple counting or arithmetic and better use of the cognitive, affective and physical aspects.

Most of the literacy programs now dwell on the functional aspects through non-formal education, he said, noting that many of the illiterates have chosen not to be formally educated.

"Those who want to learn skills to earn a living that is closer to their hearts may find it easier now to do so, as literacy no longer focuses on the mechanical level alone but has moved to the advanced stage through functional literacy," Bacani stressed. ***Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Lahar victims want jobs more than village name

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Lahar victims in Pampanga need jobs more than the proposed new names for their resettlement villages.

They relayed this appeal to provincial board members in a statement issued in reaction to a proposed ordinance renaming the resettlement centers "to uplift the morale of thousands of Mt. Pinatubo victims."

Board Member Roberto David filed the proposed measure during the board's session last week.

He said the use of the word "resettlement centers" for government-built areas "has projected a stigma of discrimination and projected an image that the people occupying the sites are of lower class than other communities."

However, the village chiefs of various resettlement centers in Pampanga said they needed jobs, instead of new names for resettlement sites.

Javier Taruc, barangay chair of the Madapdap resettlement center in Mabalacat town, said during a recent provincial board committee hearing that his constituents were asking for employment and other livelihood opportunities.

"They asked me to tell you that they need jobs, that they need livelihood. We are not opposed to renaming our resettlement sites but providing us with livelihood is more important to us," Taruc told the board members.

Other leaders from the resettlement centers of Mauaque in Mabalacat, in Bulaon here, Sta. Lucia in Magalang and Pandacaqui in Mexico town shared Taruc's sentiments.

David proposed that the Madapdap center be renamed Don Honorio Ventura Village in honor of the Kapampangan philanthropist from the lahar-buried town of Bacolor.

He also proposed the renaming of the Mauaque center to Jose Abad Santos Village; Bulaon center to Bren Z. Guiao Village in honor of the late Pampanga governor; and the Pandacaqui center to Diosdado Macapagal Village in honor of the late Kapampangan President.

The board members initially planned to rename the resettlement sites themselves.

However, provincial legal officer Filmer Abrajano informed them that they could not do so because the resettlement sites were owned and managed by the national government through the National Housing Authority and the Mount Pinatubo Task Force.

The board then decided to request, through a resolution, the national government to rename the resettlement sites. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

NANAN JIMENEZ VISITACION VIOLATIONS RA 6425 DETECTIVE BUREAU
VICTOR CENIZA Y ARDAY VIOLATIONS RA 6425 DETECTIVE BUREAU
JOVAN JIMENEZ VISITACION VIOLATIONS RA 6425 DETECTIVE BUREAU

DRUG suspects Nanan Jimenez, Victor Ceniza and Jovan Jimenez are presented to journalists by the Cebu City police on Monday. TONEE DESPOJO

HK TRIAD LINKS?

Cops arrest 3 drug suspects

By Kathy I. Navarro
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Police arrested on Friday three "high-level drug pushers" allegedly working for a Taiwanese connected with a Hong Kong triad.

The suspects were identified as Victor Ceniza, 25; Nanan Jimenez, 31, and his younger brother Jovan. Nanan was tagged by the police as a "Level One drug personality" in Central Visayas.

Senior Supt. Hiram Benatiro, acting city police chief, presented the suspects to journalists yesterday, including about 200 grams of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) allegedly seized from them.

Police also seized from the suspects a black Starex van with license plate No. BHT 999, which was one of the three luxury vehicles that Nanan allegedly used in delivering shabu to big-time drug dealers.

The suspects refused to answer questions from reporters during the news conference.

A team from the city police's detective bureau led by SPO3 Roy Codiñera arrested the suspects about 11 a.m. on Friday during a raid on Nanan's rented condominium unit at Villa Aurora, Barangay Mabolo, here.

The raid was covered by a search warrant issued by Judge Ildefonso Suerte of the Regional Trial Court Branch 20.

Benatiro said Nanan told police that their supplier of illegal drugs was a Manila-based Taiwanese who had connections with the Hong Kong triad.

Nanan identified the foreigner as Chan Wing Keun, alias Leo Chaukwei, Benatiro said. The Taiwanese reportedly carried the code-name "Hawaii."

Codiñera said the operation was the result of a month-long surveillance on the suspects reportedly working for a Hong Kong triad operating in Metro Manila and other regions in the Visayas.

Benatiro said the police were preparing for a bigger haul of illegal drugs from a Hong Kong triad. But their operations, he added, were preempted by the premature release of news about the suspects' arrest on Saturday.

"Had this not been leaked prematurely to the media, we could have hit a big target," he told the press conference.

Benatiro said Nanan told the police that three Taiwanese were supposed to arrive yesterday with a big shipment of shabu. But, he said, the delivery was postponed upon learning that the police had arrested their local contacts.

Benatiro said Nanan informed them that he had been delivering two to five kilos of shabu daily to his contacts.

Nanan, he claimed, had also offered P100,000 to the policemen in exchange for their release. The money was placed inside a black bag.

Poor families eye idle airport for resettlement

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—More than 400 poor families living alongside the airport here are looking at the vast empty strip of the unused paved runway and an adjacent piece of government land as permanent settlement site.

"The airport is no longer operational," said Naty Veloso, president of United Landing Urban Poor Association, a federation of six urban poor associations based in the area.

Evelyn Salvacion, Purok Bagong Pagkakaisa president, said that since 1989, her group had already been negotiating with the Air Transportation Office to distribute the land to the settlers.

"But (always), there's a change in national leadership. We will have to start the documentation all over again," she lamented.

Adolfo Abdala, in his 60s, who has lived in the area for the past 16 years, said helicopters usually used the airport.

Dead cow

He said he could not remember when an airplane had used the runway since a small one landed more than three years ago.

"But as it taxied on the runway, it ran into a cow that suddenly crossed its path," Abdala said. "The cow died on the spot."

The whole ATO Compound, locally called "landing," at Barangay Ibabang Iyam, covers 22 hectares of land. Wild grasses and guava trees used to be abundant there.

The 1,000-meter airstrip now serves as a training ground for student drivers, especially on weekends.

Most of the settlers were victims of disaster, such as typhoons and flash floods.

The displaced families found themselves occupying areas along the wings of the runway together with other destitute settlers.

The family of a late member of the House of Representatives also owns a house inside a compound in the left wing of the runway.

Socialized housing

In a resolution, the city council asked Malacañang to declare the Lucena airport a "Land for Socialized Housing."

Mayor Ramon Talaga said the government had many plans for the place. "We also plan to resettle other urban poor settlers from the city who are living in danger zones such as riverbanks," he said.

Councilor Nick Pedro described as "endless" the potential benefits of the place for the city government.

Robert Bonifacio, Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor area coordinator for Quezon, revealed that the government had already expropriated the land.

"What it only needs is just a procedural authentication," he said.

Bonifacio, who is assisting the settlers in the documentation of the request, said that based on initial negotiations, ATO officials "are open and willing to consider our request that the land be distributed."

Other interests

But what worries the urban poor groups now is the possible incursion of other vested interests.

"Some people from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources inspected the place once. They were accompanied by ATO officials," Bonifacio added.

"The DENR people said they have a stake on at least seven hectares of the airport complex for their own project, a sort of a government center for DENR's own use," he said.

But Rodolfo Lazaro, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said "the DENR should come in only after all the urban poor claimants have benefited from the project."

A settler does not pay any rent, except for P10 a month as voluntary contribution to the association.

"It is usually spent for our collective expenses, like the processing of our application," Veloso said, adding that the fund is deposited in a local bank.

He said the group was again making the rounds of the offices of various government officials, national and local, for their endorsement of the project.

"All the correspondences that we have were all addressed to then President Joseph Estrada. These should now carry the name of President Macapagal-Arroyo," Veloso said.

For the urban poor communities beside the desolate airstrip, the task of another documentation is but a small effort in exchange for the fulfillment of their dreams.

"We fervently hope and pray that the best Christmas gift that President Macapagal-Arroyo can give to the settlers here is her final declaration of this area as a land for a socialized housing project for the urban poor communities here," Veloso said.

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GSIS milllionaires listed by COA

(From page A1)

trusted with these contributions had arrogated upon themselves fantastic salaries taken from such contributions of these lowly employees," said COA general counsel Santos Alquizalas in the memorandum to COA commissioner Raul Flores on Aug. 7.

"And as if this is not enough, they allowed for themselves retirement benefits which are incredible in amount such that they can retire with gratuity pay of P13.5 million and monthly pension of P93,000,"Alquizalas said.

Ma. Cristina D. Dimagiba, GSIS-COA corporate auditor, said the Elip was contrary to the pronouncement of the Supreme Court on the Teves Law that barred "in no uncertain terms" the creation of another insurance or retirement plan, other than the existing government retirement scheme.

Because of the violation, the COA ordered the GSIS to stop the practice and requested the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate GSIS officials for alleged graft and corruption.

"The auditor of the GSIS speaks of the morally indefensible character of the GSIS plan. To this we fully concur," Alquizalas said in the memorandum containing the auditor's findings.

Winston Garcia, GSIS president and general manager, retaliated by ordering the transfer of COA offices from the seventh and eight floors of the GSIS to a much smaller space on the second floor, prompting COA employees to walk off their jobs. *(See related story.)*

Best of both worlds

Also known as the GSIS retirement financial plan, the Elip "adopted the best features of the two retirement schemes — the five-year lump sum payment under Republic Act 1616 and the monthly pension of RA 660 based on the creditable government service computed at 150 percent."

Dimagiba said that the Elip was neither an early retirement plan nor a financial assistance package because those who availed themselves of the program were of retirable age.

"Although referred to as financial assistance, it constituted additional retirement benefits and supplementary pension/retirement plan resulting in increase of benefits beyond what is allowed under existing retirement laws promulgated by GSIS for all government employees," said the COA memorandum.

The others who availed themselves of the Elip package were the following:

- GSIS senior vice president Lourdes Patag, who got P7.89 million in Elip, a five-year lump sum of P5.6 million, a provident fund of P2.15 million, a terminal leave of P1.8 million, and a monthly pension of P93,607, aside from a P50,000 cash award, or a total package of P17.5 million;
- GSIS vice president Marina Santamana, who got P6.9 million in ELIP, aside from the P3.176 million in five-year lump sum, among others or a total package of P13.16 million;
- GSIS vice president Vicente Villegas, who got P5.7 million in Elip, and P4.9 million in five-year lump sum, among others, or a total package of P13.5 million;
- Senior vice president Daniel Mijares, who got P7.14 million in Elip, a monthly pension of P94,691, and a five year lump sum of P5.681 million, among others, or a total package of P16.683 million;
- GSIS corporate secretary Nita Javier, who got P6.08 million in Elip, P5.681 million in five-year lump sum, and a monthly pension of P94,691, among others, or a total package of P16.6 million;
- GSIS senior vice president Elvira Geronimo, who got P7.9 million in ELIP, P3.4 million in five-year lump sum, and a monthly pension of P94,678.41, among others, or a total package of P15.61 million;
- GSIS vice president Lourdes de los Angeles, who got P4.32 million in Elip P4.3 million in five-year lump sum, and a monthly pension of P71,649, among others, or a total of P10.3 million.

Alquizalas noted that the GSIS removed the gratuity pay of one month per year of service for non-GSIS employees contributors to the GSIS Fund "who they thought should be content with P10,000 per month gratuity for a maximum of P180,000 regardless of the number of years served in government."

Null and void

Alquizalas said the GSIS Board resolutions "authorizing a permanent early retirement plan for retirable employees were null and void for being directly in conflict" with

Section 41 of RA 8291 and Section 28 (b) of CA 186 as amended by RA 4968.

RA 8291 spoke of an early retirement plan and/or financial assistance while RA 4968 barred the creation of a supplemental retirement scheme.

With the move of COA to disallow the Elip, Garcia harassed Dimagiba.

In a memorandum to Dimagiba dated Aug. 27, Garcia claimed that the COA notice of disallowance for the ELIP was "highly irregular."

He claimed that the GSIS Board Resolution No. 360 dated Nov. 21, 2000 and Board Resolution no. 6 dated Jan. 16, 2001 that approved the Elip, could not just be invalidated by a legal opinion of the COA legal counsel.

"Besides, the COA itself has no power nor any authority to declare null and void certain resolutions approved by the Board of Government Corporations. This is a power exclusively lodged, under our Constitution, before our Courts," Garcia said.

He claimed that the COA's notice of disallowance was "highly misplaced and premature" since it should only refer to a particular or specific disbursement of public funds and not against a general activity or transaction.

"The notice of disallowance in question is tantamount to a pre-audit activity, which your office has, obviously, no authority to do so," Garcia said.

Withdraw notice

"In view thereof, and in the interest of industrial peace in the GSIS, it is requested that your office withdraw the notice of disallowance contained in your memorandum dated Aug. 23, 2001," he said in the memorandum.

He then ordered the transfer of the COA offices from its previous location in the seventh and eighth floor to a smaller office space in the second floor.

The original sixth floor office of the COA alone at the GSIS building had a total floor area of 1,292 square meters, and was at the opposite wing of the General Accounting Department.

COA staff protest transfer, walk out of GSIS building

By Cathy C. Yamsuan
and Alcuin Papa

EMPLOYEES of the Commission on Audit (COA) walked out of their office in the Government Service Insurance System building in Pasay City yesterday after GSIS officials ordered them to move into smaller and less desirable office space.

The 72 employees said they were being made to transfer from a 1,292-square-meter office on the sixth floor of the GSIS building to a 485-square-meter room on the second floor next to the canteen and the carpentry shop.

"There is no basis for transferring our office," said Ma. Cristina Dimagiba, GSIS-COA corporate auditor.

The COA employees learned yesterday that GSIS president Winston Garcia had issued a memorandum ordering the transfer of their office in the GSIS building.

The order came a few days after the COA office had asked the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate Garcia and other GSIS officials for alleged graft and corruption.

Among them are alleged "kickbacks" certain GSIS officials received from some insurance companies and alleged illegal bidding transactions.

The COA had also written President Macapagal-Arroyo asking her to act on the alleged malpractices at the GSIS.

Mer Nilo Racimo, GSIS vice president for public affairs, said the transfer was implemented according to the recommendation of a building space planner.

He said the planner suggested that GSIS offices with similar or related functions be placed on the same floor.

Dimagiba dismissed this explanation.

She said the COA office was being asked to share space with the GSIS canteen that has no official auditing function on the same floor.

"There is no basis for transferring our office to a far location. Not unless GSIS officials are hiding something," Dimagiba said.

Dimagiba believes the transfer order had something to do with their disagreement with the GSIS on its Employees Loyalty Incentive Plan (Elip).

Garcia's harassment of the resident COA auditor and officials was allegedly in violation of Presidential Decree 1445, specifically section 20 which stated: "There shall be in each agency of the government an auditing unit, which shall be provided by the audited agency with a suitable and sufficient office space together with supplies, equipment and other necessary operating expenses for its proper maintenance, including expenses for travel and transportation."

To ensure that confidential documents that the COA had been keeping at the GSIS are protected, COA officials transferred them to the COA main building on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

The COA-GSIS offices were also transferred to the mother office.

THE WALKOUT of COA employees to protest the transfer of their office which in turn was allegedly done by GSIS officials to retaliate for COA's disallowance of the new Employees Loyalty Incentive Plan.

JESS YUSON

Lacson trip to US approved by Drilon

(From page A1)

posed to obtain such papers "whether the trip is official or personal. They have to seek the permission of the Senate President before they can leave."

The letter of request should include the place where a senator intends to go, the inclusive dates and the purpose of travel.

Lacson's official reason: to attend the annual meet of the Association of Caviteños in Carson City, California, as guest of honor and speaker. Lacson is a Caviteño.

Cavite Gov. Ireneo Maliksi is also reportedly in the United States now on a trade mission with other governors from his region. Sources close to Lacson had earlier said Maliksi was with the senator's travel party, although the governor in fact left Manila several days before Lacson.

The source hinted that there were other reasons that Lacson cited in his request, but refused to show the INQUIRER a copy of the letter without official clearance from Drilon's office.

Drilon is in South Africa with Sen. Blas Ople to attend an annual Inter-Parliamentary Union conference of legislators from around the world.

The source said the Senate protocol office prepared Lacson's diplomatic passport, but gave Lacson the passport and the travel order only last Friday. That evening, Lacson hosted a dinner for Senate reporters at a restaurant owned by suspected drug lord Kim Wong, but did not mention that he was planning to leave the country that weekend.

He quietly left Manila on Sunday aboard Cathay Pacific Flight 906.

Accompanying the embattled senator was businessman and executive assistant Jerome Tang, franchise holder of a Jollibee branch at the international airport.

More speculations

In Cebu City, former National Security Adviser Jose Almonte claimed that Lacson's trip to Hong Kong and then to the United States lent credence to military intelligence allegations that he had bank accounts in these two countries.

"*Mabuti rin yan* because it confirms what he denies," Almonte said when asked to comment on Lacson's trip abroad.

Almonte said the trip fueled further speculations coming on the heels of Wong's own departure for Hong Kong.

Militant groups agreed, as they claimed that the senator's unannounced sudden departure should be read as a sign of cowardice and desperation.

"Fr. Carmelo Caluag is right: Lacson is beginning to feel the heat, and he's finding it unbearable," said Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran, chair of the Kilusang Mayo Uno, referring to a remark made the other day.

Beltran and other militant leaders found it "strange" that Lacson should take a vacation while he is the subject of a closely watched Senate inquiry.

Manolito Serrano, Pamalakaya spokesperson, said "it is unethical on the part of Senator Lacson to leave the country even for a short vacation" in the context of the ongoing controversy.

Not jaywalking

He claimed that Lacson, as an elected official, owed the public an explanation for his "disappearing act" on Sunday.

"Public opinion vehemently bars Senator Lacson from going out of the country. The people deserved an honest-to-goodness explanation from the senator" before he left, Serrano said.

Gerry Albert-Corpuz, Pamalakaya information officer, blamed Malacañang for allowing the senator to leave the country, saying this reflects the government's supposed "kid glove" treatment of the senator.

"Lacson is not an ordinary petty offender charged with jaywalking . . . He is accused of several high crimes that include drug trafficking, murder, human rights violations and money laundering. Many things can happen in two weeks that could turn (things) to his favor," Corpuz said.

Beltran added that "the scope of these crimes is not only national but international."

Lacson, who has been accused of stashing $211 million in undeclared wealth in foreign banks, "should not have been allowed to leave the country . . . (while) so many issues pertaining to his alleged involvement in various criminal acts have yet to be settled," Beltran said.

"Lacson should (return to the Philippines) at the soonest possible time, and the Senate investigations should begin consolidating its recommendations for the formal filing of criminal charges against him," he said.

Serrano said "the Senate should force Ping to disclose the motive behind the trip since (there is much) speculation regarding his (trip) to the US where most of (his alleged) hidden wealth (is supposedly) deposited in several banks." ***With reports from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; Cynthia Balana and Philip Tubeza***

Corpus leaves for HK on his way to Israel

(From page A1)

of the trip, but he described it as "necessary" and "for the good of the country."

He also said that as Isafp chief, Corpus had "many concerns."

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo, said Corpus' trip was "an Isafp concern."

"We can't talk about the intelligence chief's activities. That's his tactical decision," Tiglao told reporters in Taglish.

In a phone interview, Tiglao said the President could have been informed about Corpus' trip but that he did not know for sure.

Corpus has accused Lacson of involvement in drug trafficking and money laundering.

Three Senate committees have so far conducted five hearings on the allegations against Lacson. The hearings are to resume after the Sept. 7-23 congressional break.

'Any hotel'

Corpus flew to Hong Kong around 8 p.m. on Sunday aboard Cathay Pacific flight CX 902.

Immigration officers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport said Isafp officer Emiliano Gupana II flew out with him.

The two men appeared to be merely transiting through the special administrative region for a still unknown destination, the immigration officers said.

They wrote "any hotel" in the space provided in their embarkation cards for address abroad.

Lacson caused a stir when he took a flight to Hong Kong on the same airline at 11 a.m. Sunday. He left with his constant travel companion, Jerome Tang, franchise owner of the Jollibee branch at the Naia.

Restaurant owner and suspected drug lord Kim Wong also flew to Hong Kong on Friday afternoon aboard a Philippine Airlines flight.

Last week, former undercover narcotics agent Mary Ong alias Rosebud said Ron Abbott, a British senior detective in the Hong Kong Narcotics Bureau, had tried to convince her to exclude Lacson and Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino from her exposé.

Ong also said Abbott was providing Lacson and his group "confidential information" supposedly meant to destroy her.

Flattery

At a briefing yesterday in Malacañang, Tiglao said Lacson was "flattering" himself if he considered himself a strong contender in the 2004 presidential election.

Tiglao was reacting to Lacson's recent statement that the allegations raised against him were all part of a smear campaign to prevent him from running for president in 2004.

"If you look at the results of the senatorial election, (you will see that Lacson) is No. 10," Tiglao said. "I think he flatters himself too much if he thinks that he's a candidate."

Tiglao said that from the opposition, Sen. Edgardo Angara—No. 4 on the list—would be a "better" presidential candidate.

So would Sen. Loren Legarda, he said, referring to her No. 1 ranking in 1998. ***With a report from TJ Burgonio***

2 lawyers ask Davide to rethink SC choice of new administrator

(From page A1)

because he (Kim Wong) is my acquaintance," said Velasco.

Davide himself recommended Velasco, an associate justice of the Court of Appeals, to the sensitive post. In a secret balloting, 10 of the 15 Supreme Court justices picked Velasco over three other associate justices of the appellate court and a trial judge of Bulacan.

Rumors about the impropriety of Velasco's relationship with Kim Wong swirled in the midst of a Senate inquiry into Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged involvement in drug trafficking, money laundering and other serious crimes.

Witnesses, most notably ex-police agent Mary Ong and former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, testified during the hearings that Kim Wong was a drug lord.

Kim Wong, a Chinese restaurateur in Manila who has many friends in high places, denied the allegations. No charges have yet been filed against him.

Very good friend

In his letter to Davide, Peña said Velasco was "a very good friend of Kim Wong."

"The name of Justice Velasco is on the list of government officials closely associated with Wong and this list will be made public soon," he added.

For his part, Santos said he had nothing against Velasco, his former partner in the Puerto Azul Group of Companies and a fellow member of the Rotary Club of Manila.

But he pointed out Velasco's relationship with Kim Wong was "a very serious matter that cannot be ignored by our judiciary."

Santos said the country could not "afford the silence of the oppressed mind thinking that justice could not be had because the judicial system is in the hands of persons whose integrity is in limbo."

Peña said he was ready to face the tribunal to substantiate his allegations.

"All I ask is the opportunity to be heard in view of the sensitivity of the position of court administrator who performs for the Supreme Court its constitutional mandate of administering the lower courts and their personnel nationwide," he said.

"It may well serve the interest of justice, especially at this time, to verify and confirm from credible sources other than Justice Velasco and myself the information that he is not just a friend of Wong," Peña added.

"If the high court are not persuaded by my testimony, then the oath-taking of Justice (Velasco) may well go through, but I am standing (by) my oath as member of the bar to support my allegations."

The position of court administrator became vacant upon the appointment of Alfredo Benipayo as chair of the Commission on Elections.

Prior to his appointment to the Court of Appeals, Velasco served as justice undersecretary, housing commissioner, and chair of board of pardons. He also served in the Commission on Settlements on Land Disputes.

Velasco, a graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Law, placed sixth in the 1971 bar examinations.

Army inspector general sacked

(From page A1)

command since a top military brass is not supposed to countermand the order of a lower commander, noted Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former AFP chief of staff.

Testimonies gathered by the Senate committees on national defense and security and justice and human rights showed that Villanueva may have countermanded the position taken by the ground commanders in Lamitan by ordering a military contingent to stay put in Tuburan also in Basilan instead of reinforcing the besieged troops in Lamitan.

"Based on the Senate hearings, my own conclusion was that there were some lapses on the part of the military and this was even admitted by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes," said Biazon.

He added that having poor judgement does not constitute "an offense that would require court martial proceedings. We have to determine if this is just a case of bad judgement, or a case of tactical lapses because these two are very different from criminal negligence."

Tiglao referred to the testimony of Lt. Col. Danilo Lucero, commander of the 18th Infantry Battalion who "outrightly denied under oath," that Villanueva ordered his troops to remain in Tuburan.

Lucero testified in Congress last week. The Senate and House are holding separate investigations into the alleged collusion between certain military officers and the Abu Sayyaf to explain why the latter though already cornered in a hospital in Lamitan escaped with 20 US and Filipino hostages on June 2 slipping through a backdoor and disappeared into Basilan's vast jungle area.

They later seized more local hostages, several of whom they beheaded. They also claimed to have executed one of their three American captives.

Not sacked

Copies of Rivera's confidential report were released by the AFP to members of the Senate and House.

However, Rivera's relief was not due to his report, according to the military spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan.

"He (Rivera) was not sacked," Adan said in a press conference. "He is holding an important post as chair of the Asean Army Rifle Meet in which 10 Asean armies are participating."

Rivera was designated chair of this year's Asean Army Rifle Meet, an annual shooting competition among Asean armies, which the country will host in November.

This (position) requires a one-star officer," said Adan, noting that even when Rivera was still the Army's Inspector General, he was also concurrently in charge of this event.

Rivera was replaced by Col. Froilan Maglaya. His relief was ordered about two weeks ago, according to a military source who did not want to be named.

Rivera report.

The report said that Col. Jovenal Narcise, commander of the 103rd Brigade, had directed Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, commander of the 18th Infantry Battalion, to shift bulk of his forces in Tuburan town and reinforce government forces engaging the Abu Sayyaf in Lamitan.

The report said Villanueva countermanded Narcise's order and directly instructed Lucero to remain in Tuburan.

The report, which was signed by Rivera and five members of his team, said that had the 18th IB moved into Lamitan, the military would have finished off the Abu Sayyaf there.

Adan said that this portion of the "special report" regarding Villanueva's alleged interference in operational matters has been clarified before a Senate hearing last Aug. 30.

Adan said that contrary to what was contained in the report, Villanueva did not order Lucero to hold his troops in Tuburan town and not to reinforce government forces in Lamitan.

"This was clarified before the Senate hearing last Aug. 30," Adan said in a press conference. "This error was acknowledged by General Rivera."

Lucero, who was also at the press conference, said that Villanueva did not contact him on June 2 during the battle of Lamitan.

Lucero said he and Villanueva spoke on June 1 when elements of the 18th IB made the first contact with the Abu Sayyaf since the bandits raided and took 20 hostages from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan last May 27.

Lucero said it was a Lt. Merioles, an aide of Dominguez, who relayed to him Dominguez's order on June 2 to keep his forces in Tuburan.

Lucero said this order superseded that of the earlier order given to him by Narcise to move troops from Tuburan to Lamitan.

The Lamitan fiasco resulted in the relief of Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez as commander of the 1st Infantry Division, the Army division in charge of operations in Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

Rivera and Dominguez are members of Class 1971 of the Philippine Military Academy.

In a radio interview, Villanueva said that some quarters may have leaked the report to media "because of malice."

Villanueva said the issue has been clarified before the Senate and that Dominquez had "stated that he was the one who made the tactical decision not to anymore the 18th IB."

Ready to step down

Villanueva, said that he is ready to step down as AFP chief of staff if he no longer enjoys the trust and confidence of Malacañang.

"If they do not have trust and confidence in me, I'm willing to resign immediately," Villanueva said.

"If I were to be castigated, I would like it to be done freely by my subordinates. If they tell me they don't have anymore trust and confidence (in me), I am willing to resign immediately," Villanueva said in a radio interview.

Now Rosebud . . .

(From page A1)

grabbing codename of whistleblower Mary Ong.

Interestingly, it is an Indian-Filipino who hopes to draw customers using the Chinese-Filipino ex-agent's name, in a bid to revive what was once known as the China Rose Restaurant.

Kishu Punjabi, 36, acquired the 3-year-old eatery only this year, and renamed it Indian Rose before Rosebud became a Filipino household name.

At least five Chinese-Filipino businessmen have the same idea as Punjabi, a Chinoy businessman said. Two are hardware storeowners who are reportedly preparing to rename their businesses "Rosebud." Three other enterprises have also used the name twice in their transactions, he said.

"Many businesses want this name very much, I am aware," said Rey Quirit, the restaurant's operations manager. "But we decided to test-market the name early because Rosebud's name is so popular these days, it should do our business good."

Quirit also said "we hope to invite Rosebud herself" to the establishment because "there is a real connection to the city after all"—of all things, Ong's testimony regarding a Baguio kidnapping case.

He said the name popped up in a discussion only last Friday when the family formally converted the restaurant into a jazz bar.

"It was the son of Rose (Kishu's wife) who blurted out the name Rosebud. This restaurant was named Indian Rose, when it bought out China Rose, but we thought the term 'Indian' might not sell well as a jazz bar.

"Then this child says 'Rosebud,' and we got images of (former civilian "asset" Ador) Mawanay and Ping Lacson, and we said, 'that's it,' and we just used it," Quirit said.

Trade name

He added, however, that the family was not sure about how Ong would feel about its move. "*Baka nga bigla niyang itanong kaya kailangan naming siguruhin sa* DTI (She might question the name, which is why we need to get clearance from the Department of Trade and Industry)," he said.

Daniel Fontanos, senior trade officer of DTI-Benguet, said government rules normally frown on businesses, which adopt "the names of living or dead people, other than the actual owner, for their enterprises' business names."

But the country's new copyright laws are silent on pen names or code names, like Ong's, Fontanos said.

And, after all, a "rosebud" is still only a rosebud, as far as most of the world is concerned.

But Quirit said the Punjabis have already decided that the name also means good fortune for their business.

"They believe in feng shui, so they have already decided that the name will be fruitful. But I know they are still trying to determine if the name suits them well. Because if it doesn't, then we will not pursue (the DTI trade name application)," he said.

Menu

The bar will be one of a handful of establishments representing the remaining 2 percent of Indian-Filipino businesses left in Baguio's Chinese-Filipino dominated downtown.

Chinese-Filipinos reportedly own more than 90 percent of business establishments on Session Road, the heart of Baguio business, relegating some of the city's oldest Indian-Filipino family enterprises to the side streets.

Punjabi's family owns the Fil-Indian department store, one of the oldest surviving Baguio institutions.

Rosebud, it turns out, is historically an Indian name—but of the American variety. It is the name of a Sioux and Sicangu Oyatu tribe of native Americans based in Dakota.

Quirit did not say what the new Rosebud Restaurant would include on its menu, but here are some suggestions: Ping Salmon, Ador's *Panga*, Corpus Chicken in a Drum, and, of course, Shabu-shabu.

Nacorda fears whitewash of Basilan case by military

(From page A1)

"How could they give a very clear report when they went to Basilan to investigate only for a day? I don't think they could wrap up the investigation (in Lamitan) for a day," Nacorda said.

"It also took them quite some time to publish their report. I thought they would publish their report immediately. They went (to Lamitan) a week after the incident (in June). But they came out with the report only now," the Claretian priest said.

The fact-finding team said Villanueva had reversed orders to move military reinforcements from Tuburan town to Lamitan that could have finished off the main group of the Abu Sayyaf.

Nacorda maintained that Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, then commander of the 1st Infantry Division, and Col. Jovenal Narcise, then commander of the 103rd Infantry Battalion, had received money from the bandits in exchange for their escape.

"So far, there is no evidence that will link Villanueva (to the alleged connivance and bribery)," Nacorda said.

Nacorda disclosed that Brig. Gen. Reynaldo Rivera, AFP inspector general and leader of the AFP fact-finding mission, had asked him about the Abu Sayyaf escape.

Nacorda said he and the other witnesses in Basilan would reveal the involvement of other high-ranking officials in the operations of the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

These persons include elected officials in both the Estrada and Macapagal administrations, according to the priest.

Nacorda was in Manila to brief the permanent council of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) and the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference in yet another gathering.

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How Nextel is changing the way we communicate

Voice and data technologies are converging at a faster rate than ever before. It is an inevitable trend that started more than a decade ago, with the first convergence taking place between telephone and fax machine. With the advances in cable TV technology, convergence now allows delivery of television programming, Internet, telephony and other digital communications.

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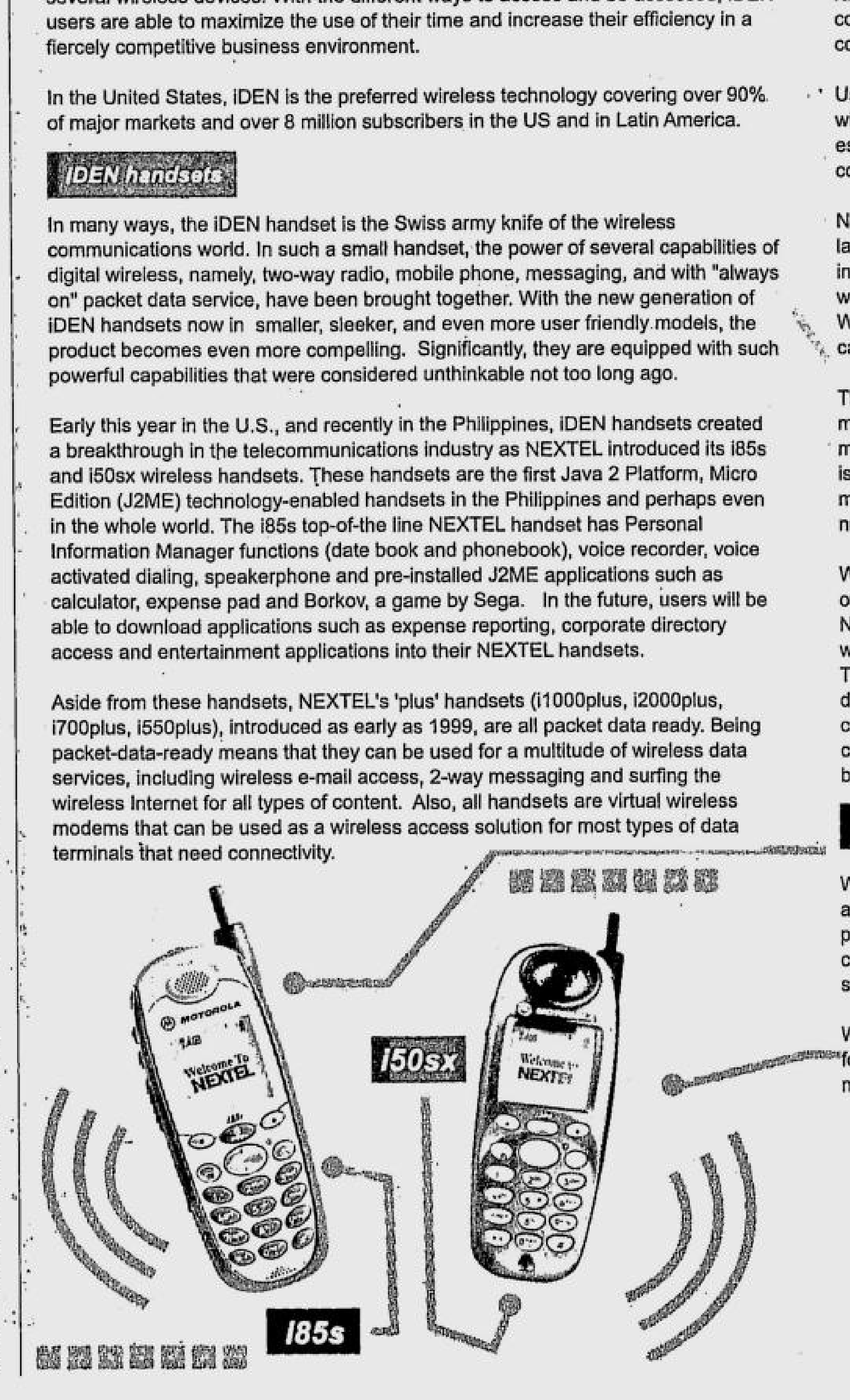
In the United States, iDEN is the preferred wireless technology covering over 90% of major markets and over 8 million subscribers in the US and in Latin America.

iDEN handsets

In many ways, the iDEN handset is the Swiss army knife of the wireless communications world. In such a small handset, the power of several capabilities of digital wireless, namely, two-way radio, mobile phone, messaging, and with "always on" packet data service, have been brought together. With the new generation of iDEN handsets now in smaller, sleeker, and even more user friendly models, the product becomes even more compelling. Significantly, they are equipped with such powerful capabilities that were considered unthinkable not too long ago.

Early this year in the U.S., and recently in the Philippines, iDEN handsets created a breakthrough in the telecommunications industry as NEXTEL introduced its i85s and i50sx wireless handsets. These handsets are the first Java 2 Platform, Micro Edition (J2ME) technology-enabled handsets in the Philippines and perhaps even in the whole world. The i85s top-of-the line NEXTEL handset has Personal Information Manager functions (date book and phonebook), voice recorder, voice activated dialing, speakerphone and pre-installed J2ME applications such as calculator, expense pad and Borkov, a game by Sega. In the future, users will be able to download applications such as expense reporting, corporate directory access and entertainment applications into their NEXTEL handsets.

Aside from these handsets, NEXTEL's 'plus' handsets (i1000plus, i2000plus, i700plus, i550plus), introduced as early as 1999, are all packet data ready. Being packet-data-ready means that they can be used for a multitude of wireless data services, including wireless e-mail access, 2-way messaging and surfing the wireless Internet for all types of content. Also, all handsets are virtual wireless modems that can be used as a wireless access solution for most types of data terminals that need connectivity.



Wireless technology at its finest

Two-way radio, mobile telephone, alphanumeric messaging, and packet data services are available in every NEXTEL handset via the iDEN technology. The two-way radio service provides an easy, economical way for a mobile workgroup to stay in touch either one-on-one (private mode) or via group call. A NEXTEL subscriber can talk one-on-one instantly with another subscriber via two-way radio just like when he does using any mobile cellular phone. The radio call can be done in either silent or speakerphone mode. This service is communications at its best: as soon as the push-to-talk button is pressed, the connection is made instantaneously.

Using Group Call, simultaneous communication with as many as 100 people---without the hassle of setting up a conference call---is possible. This is especially helpful to businesses with a mobile workforce that need close coordination and teamwork.

NEXTEL's mobile phone feature allows its users to interconnect to any landline or mobile phone in the Philippines and anywhere in the world. With international roaming capability, it can be used for seamless roaming service with other NEXTEL networks in the world, particularly in the United States. With the use of the dual-mode NEXTEL handsets, this international roaming capability is extended and already available in over 50 countries worldwide.

The messaging feature allows the incorporation of a number of valuable messaging services, providing convenience and flexibility. Alphanumeric messaging ensures that messages are received even if the NEXTEL handset is turned off as they are stored in the network computer server. NEXTEL messaging feature also has automatic callback capability which reads a phone number embedded in a message and dials it with the push of the send key.

With the soon-to-be-launched packet data service in the Philippines, the realm of wireless Internet will complement the multiple services and features of NEXTEL. Without the need for a desktop or Internet subscription, subscribers will be able to access the web anytime, anywhere at a low monthly flat rate. The NEXTEL handset virtually becomes the Internet and e-mail access device, creating infinite possibilities and opportunities for users. As an effective carrier of any kind of information for businesses and individual users, NEXTEL can further boost productivity and efficiency in the workplace with customized business applications.

Best-buy; best-value

What's more, there are no long distance charges when two-way radio calls are made anywhere within NEXTEL's coverage area. With NEXTEL's rate plans that bill local calls by the second and not by the minute, the best communication service becomes also the best commercial package, creating savings of up to 60 % compared to rate plans that round up to the next minute.

With all these, there is no doubt that NEXTEL is setting the new benchmark for wireless services in the country. With the kind of technology it has and the most practical and value-laden rate plans it offers, no one else can come close!

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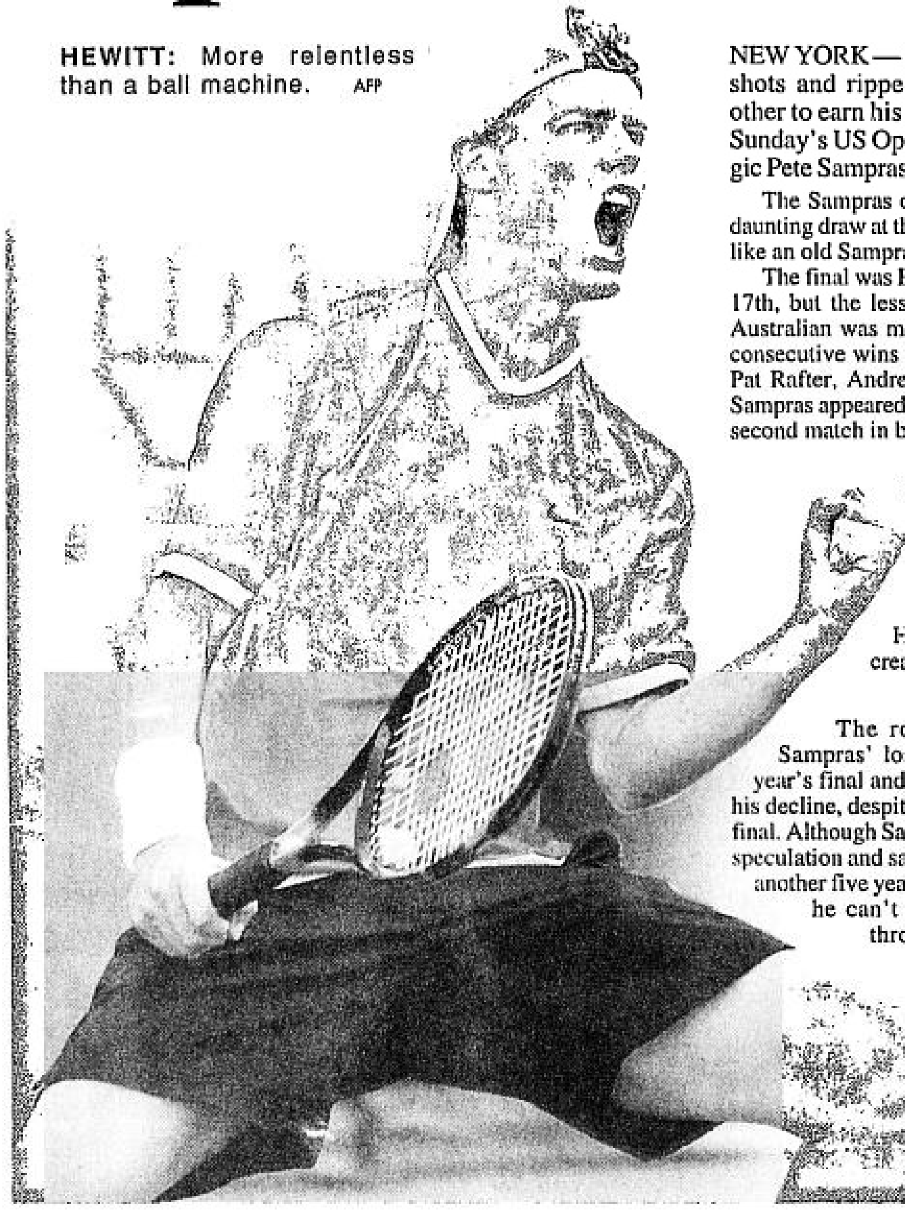
Hewitt trips Sampras, cops 1st 'Slam' crown



HEWITT: More relentless than a ball machine. AFP

NEW YORK — Lleyton Hewitt ran down shots and ripped one winner after another to earn his first Grand Slam title in Sunday's US Open final, beating a lethargic Pete Sampras 7-6 (4), 6-1, 6-1.

The Sampras of old, who tore through a daunting draw at the US Open, merely looked like an old Sampras against young Hewitt.

The final was Hewitt's first and Sampras' 17th, but the less experienced 20-year-old Australian was much more energetic. After consecutive wins against former champions Pat Rafter, Andre Agassi and Marat Safin, Sampras appeared to have nothing left for his second match in barely 24 hours.

While Hewitt was more relentless than a ball machine, Sampras had just five winners and 38 unforced errors. He won only half the points when he went to the net as Hewitt passed him with increasing ease.

Speculation

The rout was reminiscent of Sampras' loss to young Safin in last year's final and is certain to renew talk of his decline, despite the impressive run to the final. Although Sampras bristles at retirement speculation and says he wants to play at least another five years, it's increasingly evident he can't sustain his former level through a two-week tournament.

This is the first year since 1992 he has failed to win a major championship. He has gone 18 tournaments without a title since 2000 Wimbledon, when he broke the record for men's Grand Slam singles titles with No. 13.

For the second year in a row, he came up one win shy of a record-tying fifth Open men's title.

One thing Sampras can still do is size up an opponent. He has long been among the 20-year-old Hewitt's biggest boosters, touting him as a future Grand Slam champ, and now the tenacious golden-haired retriever has made the breakthrough.

He's the youngest Open men's champion since Sampras won his first major title 11 years ago at age 19.

So quick

"The kid is so quick it's unbelievable," the 30-year-old Sampras said. "I wish I had some of those legs for this old guy. I lost to a great champion. You're going to see this Lleyton Hewitt guy for the next 10 years like you saw me."

The No. 4-seeded Hewitt earned $850,000, and the victory may give his reputation a much-needed boost Down Under. He hasn't been widely beloved by sports-mad Australians because of his brash, pugnacious style.

His latest outburst was a tirade during a match last week, when his ill-advised, perhaps racially tinged comments made headlines. But he moved beyond the furor, made no other verbal missteps and returned the focus to his tennis, which has been terrific. He won five-setters against young Americans James Blake and Andy Roddick en route to the final.

"I got better with every match I've played over the last two weeks," Hewitt said during the trophy ceremony.

Given the opponent and the partisan crowd, Hewitt wisely showed little emotion against Sampras until the final point. The match was won with one last passing shot _ a backhand return winner.

Hewitt skidded onto his back with glee. He arose pumping his fist, shook hands with Sampras and then trotted to the stands to kiss his girlfriend, French Open runner-up Kim Clijsters. *AP*

PSC lauds karatekas

KUALA LUMPUR—Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason yesterday lauded the gallant feat of karate-do athletes Jose Mari Pabillore and Gretchen Malalad in giving the Philippines its first two golds in the SEA Games, calling their victories as big lessons on how to buck the odds.

"Leadership squabbles must not stop athletes from pursuing a mission to excel and serve the country well," said Tuason.

He added that both Pabillore and Malalad are part of a karate-do association that was bugged by infighting even before the athletes left for Malaysia.

But apparently, according to Tuason, the two had made use of the support given them by the PSC-POC Task Force headed by Commissioner Richie Garcia when everything remained sour in the karate backyard.

"We just had to make quick action when we felt that they needed support and the PSC really gave the karate players the funds, equipment or foreign exposure that were available," Tuason said. "We literally adopted the national karate team."

As Malalad expressed his profuse gratitude to the PSC for coming to the rescue when interviewed by the broadcasting team, a touched Tuason relayed to the karatekas a special message: "There won't be anymore troubles as soon as you come home."

The clincher, Garcia said, for the big showing of karate was when the PSC provided them with a new training venue at the Philsports Arena.

Garcia said that it is not healthy doing such but the PSC is now realizing some sense in trouble-shooting especially in the training of the athletes.

Alta Vista hosts Sta. Lucia Tour kickoff leg

THE CHALLENGING Alta Vista Golf and Country Club, Cebu's golf treasure in the hills of Pardo, again hosts the kick-off leg of the Sta. Lucia Tour on Sept. 13-16 with 36 of its members out to fight for Visayan pride against rivals from Luzon and Mindanao.

Two club directors—Renato Dychangco Jr. and Ramon Sebastian—andgeneral manager Arturo James Balagtas will be leading the Alta Vista campaign in the four-month series among clubs developed by Sta. Lucia Realty.

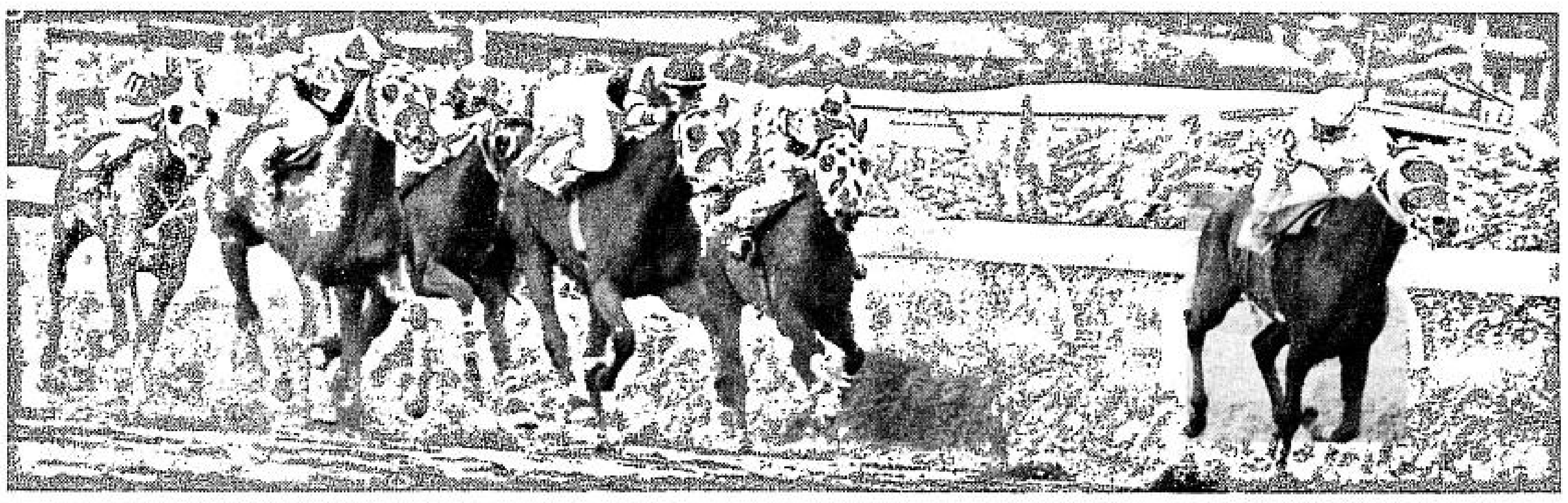
Dychangco said the Alta Vista team is their own version of a "lean but mean" contingent.

"We made sure to have the right combinations this time. We're not relying on the so-called home course advantage because we know we're up against good players," said Dychangco.

There are 50 teams representing 200 members of five clubs seeing action in the course-hopping series. The other entries are from Eagle Ridge, Orchard, Royale Tagaytay, Rancho Palos Verdes-Davao.

Sta. Lucia is staging the event to foster relations among clubs operating under its banner. The real estate giant has also drawn the support of Golforce, Inc., Gainers Marketing, Atlanta Industries, Kubota Agro-Ind. Machinery Phils., Unirock, Readycon, Club Car, Cebu Plaza Hotel, Omega, Yamaha, Philippine Airlines, Kodak Digital Camera, Semicon, Inc., Marco Polo Hotel, Isuzu Fuego-Alabang and Neltex and Anako for this year's tour. Meanwhile, the Eagle Ridge contingent held a pre-departure cocktails at its Gen. Trias, Cavite clubhouse yesterday.

The Sta. Lucia format has team (four-to-play three to count) and individual competitions in series of four 36-hole competitions in four clubs nationwide. The club with the best aggregate score among six teams in the three handicap groups in all hosts venues will be awarded the Sta. Lucia Cup.



HOMBRE STAKES

Ace jockey Fernando Raquel Jr. (right) looks back at the opposition as longshot Mighty Strong storms to the finish line in the Hombre Stakes race Sunday at the Santa Ana Park.

VALHANDUMON

SPORTSWATCH

Verplank wins Open

MONTREAL —Two big birdie putts allowed Scott Verplank to survive a few scary moments down the stretch Sunday, but he hung on to win the Canadian Open and douse any concerns about his selection to the Ryder Cup team. Despite a double bogey on No. 16 and having to scramble for par on the final hole, Verplank closed with a 3-under 67 and won for the first time this year, beating Bob Estes and Joey Sindelar by three strokes. He finished at 14-under 266, matching the winning score last year by Tiger Woods at Glen Abbey Golf Club. Woods never had a chance to become the first player in 50 years to win the Canadian Open in consecutive years. He had a 69 and finished 10 strokes back. *AP*

Bonds tallies 63rd

DENVER —Barry Bonds hit three home runs to give him 63 for the season, passing Roger Maris' once-magical mark and moving him closer to Mark McGwire's record. Bonds' third homer Sunday was a three-run shot in the 11th inning that lifted the San Francisco Giants over the Colorado Rockies 9-4. Playing at Coors Field, Bonds broke Maris' record of 61 for most homers in a season by a left-handed hitter. Bonds has 18 games left to break McGwire's record of 70 set in 1998. Bonds is now eight games ahead of McGwire's pace. *AP*

Yugoslavs post No. 8

ISTANBUL, Turkey—Yugoslavia came to the European Championships with something to prove. And they played like it. After several embarrassing stumbles the past two years, Yugoslavia powered its way to an eighth European title with a 78-69 win Sunday over host Turkey that puts them back at the top rank of international basketball. *AP*

Ucap/BJ derby on today

MORE than 60 fights are in store for *sabong* aficionados today as big-time cockers collide in the 1st Ucap/BJ Greenwood 7-Stag Derby at Mandaluyong Coliseum beginning at 5 p.m.

Hosts are Ucap president Butch Macasaet and Joey delos Santos, while sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

This is the first of seven Ucap stagfests that serve as basis in selecting the winner of the 'Stagfighter of the Year 2001' award.

Only those stags wingbanded by Pagba, Migba, Ucap, GF-BAN and NGBA are accepted to join. Unlike other stag derbies, all stags that will be fought in the seven Ucap stagfests were banded when they were still two to three months old.

Meanwhile, 25 entries are already listed in the upcoming "Sir Vincent 5-Stag Derby" on Saturday, Sept. 15, with businessman-sportsman Vic Yu as host. For other inquiries, please contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE—Toronto 6, Detroit 3; N.Y. Yankees 7, Boston 2; Cleveland 9, Chicago White Sox 8; Texas 4, Kansas City 3, 12 innings; Minnesota 3, Anaheim 0; Oakland 4, Tampa Bay 3, 13 Innings; Seattle 6, Baltimore 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE—Cincinnati 5, Pittsburgh 3; Philadelphia 12, Montreal 4; St. Louis 8, Los Angeles 1; Atlanta 9, Chicago Cubs 5; Houston 8, Milwaukee 0; San Francisco 9, Colorado 4, 11 innings; Florida 4, N.Y. Mets 2; Arizona 8, San Diego 2. *AP*

ABC CHIEF

Asian Basketball Confederation president Dr. Carl Menky Ching (third from left) and his secretary general Dato Yeoh Choo Hock (left) exchange pleasantries with Federal Express chair and national youth basketball commission patron Bert Lina and Basketball Association of the Philippines Secretary General Graham Lim during the Fiba-conducted BAP elections at the Century Park Hotel recently.

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PAGUNSAN: RP hotshot. ERNIE SARMIENTO

GOLF STUNNER

Pagunsan rips record, leads by 3

KUALA LUMPUR—Juvic Pagunsan shot six birdies yesterday en route to a course record five-under-par 67 for a three-stroke lead at the start of golf competitions in the 21st Southeast Asian Games here.

KUALA LUMPUR 2001

The 23-year-old Pagunsan putted only 12 times on each nines as he literally single-handedly carried the Philippine fight in the chase for gold in the nine-nation golf event.

Hosts of the five-year-old, 200-members only golf club designed from a valley by Jack Nicklaus happily said that Pagunsan's 67 was a course record for amateurs in a competition.

"The boys' early arrival here has paid off, at least for today," said Rod Feliciano, president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines. "But even as I was not totally surprised with Juvic's fine performance, I must say I should thank the Philippine Sports Commission for the financial help it had extended the boys for them to fly here at least two weeks before the event."

On hand to cheer the boys were First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, PSC Chair Butch Tuason and PSC Commissioners Weena Lim and Richie Garcia, the man who helped push the early arrival of both the men's and women's golf teams here.

Arrival

The RP golfers arrived here on Aug. 27 in the company of men's team captain Iggy Clavecilla, coach George Walker and the women golfers Carmelette Villaroman, Heidi Chua, Ruby Chico and Lucy Landicho, with Alice Andrada as captain.

Clavecilla's wards had had a total of six practice rounds, giving them the luxury of studying every nook and cranny of the course.

Malaysian sportswriters mobbed Pagunsan for interviews left and right as though they had just seen a star, drowning out the so-so performances of his teammates Boyet Saragoza, Marvin Dumandan and Jay Bayron.

Saragoza shot 76, Dumandan 81 and Bayron 82 at the Sungai Long Golf & Country Club located at the outskirts of the city some 30 minutes away by car.

But that didn't hurt much since the format this time called for placings only in team standings after the conclusion of the 72-hole individual event on Sept. 13.

"The change of format gave everybody a chance to win the gold in team competitions," said Clavecilla. "As a team, we didn't do very well today. But then, the actual team battle begins on Sept. 15 and it's a long way to go from here."

Match play

The two-day match play on Sept. 15-16 pits the No. 1 team after Sept. 13 against No. 8, No. 2 against No. 7, No. 3 against No. 6 and No. 4 against 5. The last two teams after the individual stroke play will go into a playoff, match play, on Sept. 14 for the eighth slot.

The Philippines' 226 total was good for a tie for fourth with Myanmar, 12 shots behind leader Thailand. Running second 11 shots ahead of the Filipinos were the Malaysians at 217. Third was Indonesia at 222. Singapore, Brunei, Vietnam and Laos followed in that order.

Pagunsan, who won the DHL and Canlubang Amateurs this year, described his round as "almost error-free" although he drove out of bounds on the par-5 sixth. But he one-putted for a six.

He birdied 2, 9 and 12 and then rifled three birdies on three of the last four holes, capping his fiery round with a birdie-birdie finish for his 32 coming home.

His 67 led Thailand's Pariya (70) and the trio Sivanchandran (71) of Malaysia, Indra Hermawan (71) of Indonesia and Wisut Artjanawat (71) of Thailand. Prom Meesawat, the Thai hotshot paired with Pagunsan, shot a 73.

"I hit tremendous tee shots and I was extra long today," said Pagunsan in Tagalog. "Indeed, our early arrival here helped a lot."

The RP women golfers plunge into action today and, like the men's event, the individual gold will be awarded to the lowest gross shooter on Sept. 13.

Karatedo hero business-minded

KUALA LUMPUR—Gold medal winner Jose Mari Pabillore is a very practical person. The 5-foot-8 Pabillore (not a police officer as earlier reported) told the INQUIRER that the cash bonanza he will receive from winning the individual kumite men (+80kgs) will go into business.

"I don't know what kind of business yet. Maybe I'll decide if I've already received the check," Pabillore, a native of Cagayan de Oro City said. Pabillore beat Thailand Dam Sruan in the final.

Pabillore, whose cousin Marna is also a national karateka, said winning the SEAG gold is a lifelong dream. "I came here to win," Pabillore, who started to learn karate when he was 12. Pabillore's relative owns a karate gym in his native city. Pabillore also owns three Philippine National Games gold medals.

Teammate Gretchen Malalad, a graduate of communication arts from the University of Santo Tomas, gave the country another gold after two days of competitions by capturing the individual women's kumite title (+60 kgs). *Dennis U. Eroa*

'Del' won't predict

KUALA LUMPUR—Unlike athletics chief Go Teng Kok, former middle distance ace and coach Isidro del Prado isn't ready to make bold predictions regarding the Philippines gold-medal hunt in the ongoing 21st SEA Games here.

"I'm sorry but I cannot predict what will happen," said Del Prado, a police officer based in Camp Crame.

The controversial Go has predicted a haul of seven golds for the nationals, which will be a tremendous improvement for the 1-6-5 G-S-B output of the Philippines in the 1999 Brunei SEA Games.The athletics competitions starts tomorrow (Wednesday) at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil with golds to be contested. *Dennis U. Eroa*

Eric sees swimming renaissance in 2005

By Dennis U. Eroa

KUALA LUMPUR—Former swimming sensation Eric Buhain, now happily married to a Batangueña representing the first district of Batangas in the House, is confident that by the 2005 SEA Games, the Philippines will reclaim its leading position as swimming powerhouse in the region.

"We have a built-in advantage among our neighbors because of the large number of children trying to learn how to swim. It's just a matter of time before we become number one again," the 31-year-old Buhain said. Buhain, who shares domestic bliss with Rep. Eileen Ermita, owns a total of 15 golds in various SEA Games.

Buhain, of course, knows that upstaging the Thais, Singaporeans and Malaysians will require not just hard work. "I always think that political will can do it. It's just like building a stadium as wonderful as the National Stadium here. If Malaysia can do it, we can also do it or even better."

Now the national training director for the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association, Buhain said sports in the Philippines are being hampered by stopgap measures. "We just can't prepare our athletes for two of three months. The training must be comprehensive."

Buhain, of course, knows what he's talking. Fed up with the callous attitude of sporting leaders, Buhain with fellow nationals Bong Coo, Lydia de Vega and others took to the streets to air their grievances.

"I have no regrets because we were able to show that athletes cannot be taken for granted," Buhain reminisced. He last competed in the 1993 Singapore SEA Games, topping the 100m butterfly and finishing second in the 100m breaststroke and 4x100m medley relay.

Stags blast Cardinals, grab 2nd spot

By June Navarro

GAMES THURSDAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
12nn—PCU vs Letran (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—San Beda vs CSB (jrs/srs)

SAN Sebastian College needed only a big second-quarter offensive to demolish Mapua Tech, 81-71, and grab solo second spot yesterday in NCAA men's basketball at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Paul Reguerra knocked in seven straight points including a triple barely two minutes left before halftime as the Stags broke free from a tight contest and never looked back.

Jose Rizal University notched its 10th win against two setbacks after thumping University of Perpetual Help-Rizal, 102-87, in the nightcap.

The Altas plunged to their sixth straight debacle for a 4-9 record.

Scores:

SSC 81—Macapagal 18, Alfad16, Reguerra 13, Coronel 7, Uy 7, Mercado 6, Moore 6, De Leon 4, Najorda 4, Falcasantos 0, Nadera 0.

MAPUA 71—Martin 13, Marucot 11, Guevarra 11, Feliciano 10, Silva 8, Lagar 7, Sta. Maria 6, Dula 2, Buyco 2, Bangoy 1, Tiongco 0, Maneclang 0.

Quarters: 24-26, 46-34, 61-52, 81-71

RP dribblers whip Indons

(From page A18)

Slotman Rommel Adducul, Eddie Laure, Jomar Tierra and Reuben de la Rosa all finished in double-figure scores as the Filipinos stamped themselves as odds-on favorites.

Despite the overpowering win, coach Boysie Zamar is hardly impressed." There are still lots of room for improvement. We have to focus more and do better next time."

Another easy day is expected as the Philippines battles lowly Vietnam at 4 p.m. today

Members of the Filipino community here clapped in approval as the Philippines padded the lead to 59-32 at the half.

Chito Victolero also contributed to the RP cause by handcuffing Indonesian top scorer Ali Budimansiyah to just two points.

The victory was a welcome relief for the Philippine contingent. Hours before the tipoff, BAP President Tiny Literal told the INQUIRER that he threatened to walk out and bring the whole team with him to Manila in protest of the shabby treatment he and the team have been receiving from the POC. He told Arroyo that he has not been given his accreditation yet.

But a POC insider said it cannot accredit Literal because it recognizes Lito Puyat as president.

" The POC doesn't want to be involved in politics. We're even surprised that Tiny was able to join the parade of athletes during the opening ceremonies," said the source.

Scores:

RP 112-Adducul 20, Laure 19, Tierra 17, De la Rosa 11, Ferriols 9, Mendoza 7, Martin 7, Rodriguez 6, Victolero 4, Echavez 2, Hizon 0.

INDONESIA 74-Cokorda 12, Sudiadnyana 12, Hantono 10, Chandra 8, Eriano 6, Daryono 6, Johnson 5, Dhay 4, Rinaldo 3, Whayudi 3, Roring 2, Budimansyah 0.

Quarters: 31-15, 59-32,83-57,112-74.

RP SKED TODAY

(Sept. 11)

SWIMMING: 9 a.m.—Men's 400m freestyle (Mendoza, Kalaw), women's 100m back (Danila, Dacanay), women's 100m fly (Ang, Dacanay), men's 4x100m free relay (Piccio, Molina, Kalaw, Mendoza)

ARCHERY: 8:30 a.m.—90m and 70m pre-round men (Cordero, Cubilla, Figueroa, Fraginal), 70m and 60m pre-round women (Chan, Figueroa, Marino, Tindugan)

BASKETBALL: 4 p.m.—RP vs Vietnam (men)

BILLIARDS & Snooker: 10 a.m.—8-ball pool (L. Corteza vs L. Hwe, Brunei; E. Reyes vs J. Tan, Brunei); Billiards single (R. Grandea vs L. Hong, Malaysia; B. Guevarra vs M. Hong)

TENPIN BOWLING: 9 a.m.—Men's doubles (C. King, CJ Suarez, B. Rivera, B. Dytoc, B. Rey); Women's doubles (L. del Rosario, C. Yap, J. Canare, I. Garcia, A. Valdez, L. Clutario)

BOXING: 3 p.m.—Quarterfinals

CYCLING: 9 a.m.—Olympic sprint (E. Medina, N. Estayo, W. Blas, P. Curtan), men's sprint (N. Estayo, E. Medina Jr., R. Gorantes), men's 4km individual team pursuit, qualifying (V. Espiritu, P. Curtan, L. Reynante, P. Manapul, A. Catalan, W. Blas), mens' 40km Madison (P. Manapul, R. Gorantes, L. Reynante), men's keirin (P. Manapul, R. Gorantes, E. Medina)

EQUESTRIAN: 8 a.m.—Show jumping team final/ind. qualifying (F. Barba, D. Cojuangco, J. Santos, C. Zobel)

FENCING: 9 a.m.—Women's ind. epee (L. Bauzon, L. San Diego), men's ind. epee (R. Gomez, W. Viscayno)

GOLF: 8 a.m.—Round 2 men (Pagunsan, Dumandad, Bayron, Zaragoza); round 1 women (Chico, Villaroman, Chua)

KARATEDO: 10 A.M.—Men's ind. kumite (J. Perania, -70 kg; K. Torres, -80 kg); women's ind. kumite (G. Malalad, open); women's team kumite (D. Moral, G. Malalad, M. Rimando, C. Tugday); men's team kumite (J. Laplana, E. Halili, I. Soriano, J. Perania, R. Mariano III, K. Torres)

ROWING: 9 a.m.—Men's single sculls (B. Tolentino Jr.,), lightweight men's doubles sculls (E. Maerina/J. Rodriguez), Women's coxless pairs (M. Babilonioa/J. Tolentino), lightweight men's coxless 4s (E. Maerina, M. Galvez, A. Amposia, J. Rodriguez, R. Tolentino)

SEPAK TAKRAW: 8:30 a.m.—Malaysia vs RP (C. Mjangtanog, R. Ruedas Jr., G. Saavedra, J. Aleta) 5 p.m.—Vietnam vs RP (E. Bernardo, C. Dionisio, D. Autor, E. Limoc)

SHOOTING: 8 a.m.—Men's 10m air rifle, final (E. Concepcion, C. Arceo, R. Bote Jr); men's rapid fire pistol, stage 1 (N. Padilla, I. Dionesia, C. Medina); women's 50m sport rifle 3x20, final (J. Luis); men's skeet 75 targets, final (P. Bernardo, D. Hizon, P. Rosario)

'TAEKWONDO: 9 a.m.—Fly, welter, heavyweight (T. Go, D. Cordero, M. Rivero, N. Ycasas, D. Simpao, M. Bonifacio)

TENNIS: 9 a.m.—Men's and Ladies' team semis; 1st and 2nd round men's and ladies' ind. event (J. Arcilla, M. Mora II, C. Arevalo, J. Saret)

WUSHU: 9:30 a.m.—Finals

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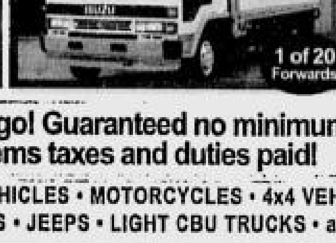

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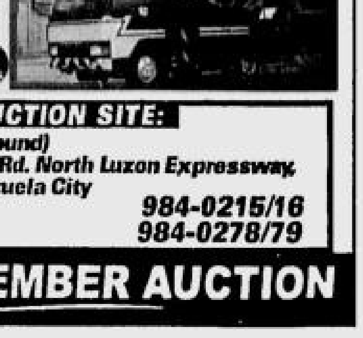

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- Pagunsan rips mark A17
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SPORTS

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KUALA LUMPUR 2001

MEDAL TALLY

As of 8:30 p.m., Sept. 10

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Malaysia	29	13	17	59
Indonesia	12	12	16	40
Thailand	11	15	15	41
Vietnam	10	10	15	35
Philippines	6	14	14	34
Singapore	6	6	5	17
Myanmar	4	5	14	23
Brunei	0	0	3	3
Cambodia	0	0	1	1
Laos	0	0	0	0

SEA GAMES

RP dribblers whip Indons

GAMES TODAY

4 p.m.—RP vs Vietnam (men)
6 p.m.—Thailand vs Indonesia (women)

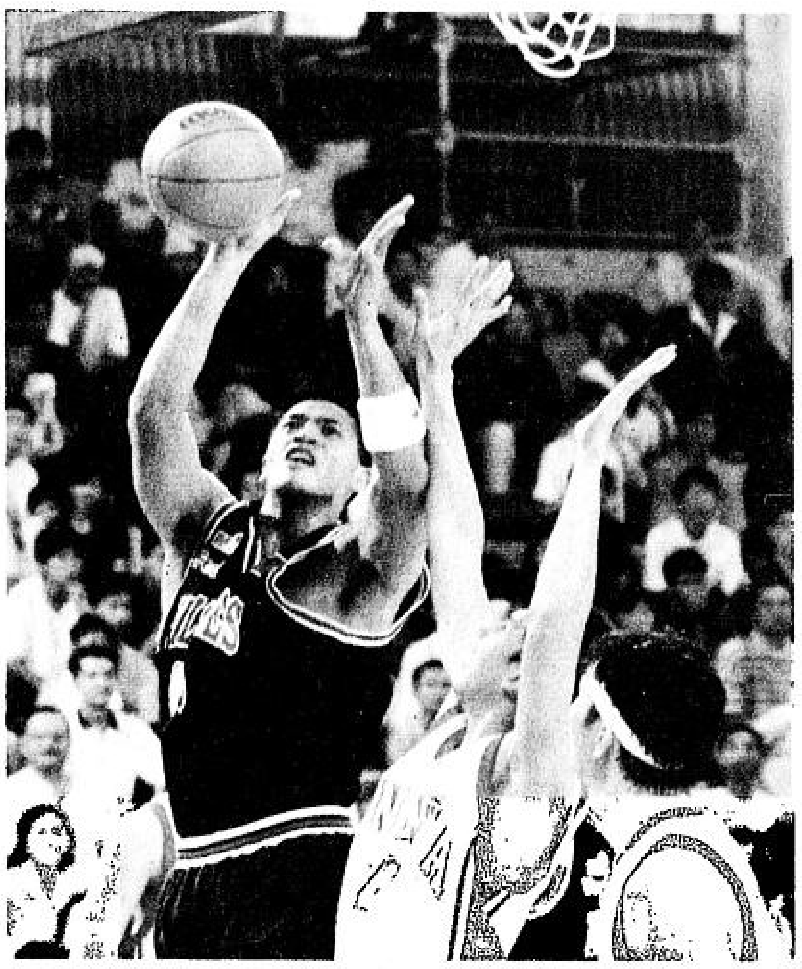
By Dennis U. Eroa

KUALA LUMPUR 2001

KUALA LUMPUR—Not in the mood to give an inch, defending champion Philippines routed Indonesia, 112-74, yesterday at the start of the 21st SEA Games basketball championship at the Malaysian Basketball Association Gym here.

With First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and PSC chair Carlos Tuason leading the cheers, the highly favored Filipinos raced to a 31-15 first-quarter lead and never looked back, a performance which struck fears to the hearts of closest rivals Thailand and Malaysia.

RP DRIBBLERS/ A17


ROMEL Adducul (left) tries to score off Indonesia's Cokorda Wibawa as Pek King Dhay looks on. The Filipinos won, 112-74. AP

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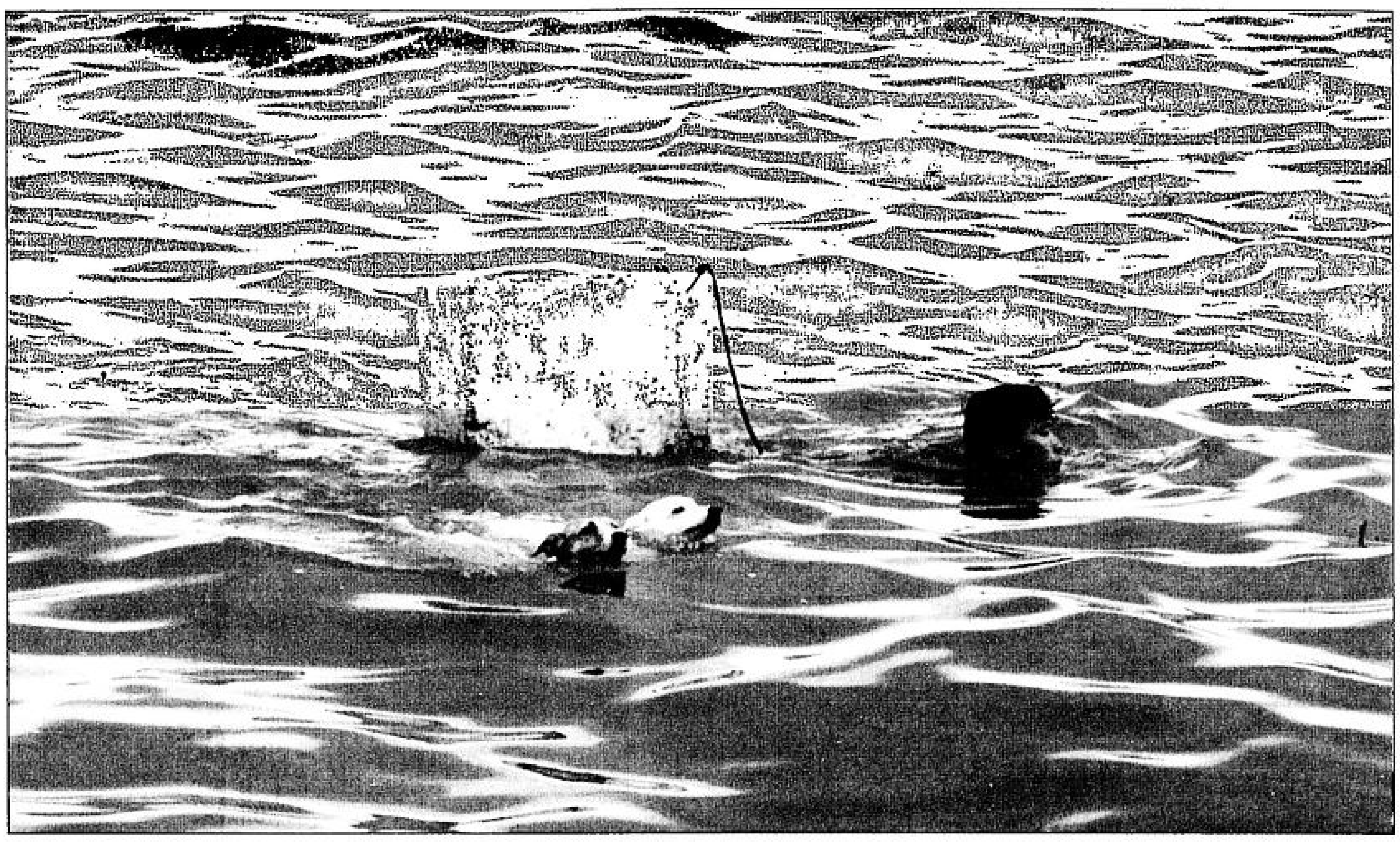
PAASI

METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

LRT hit by chaos A20

14-year-old gang 'boss' arrested A21

Gunman breaks through GMA security



FOOD, FRIENDS, FREE SWIM
A man swims back to shore at the Manila Bay breakwater on Roxas Boulevard, accompanied by two of his best friends and a box of seashells he has gathered for his meal. EDWIN BACASMAS

BY NELSON F. FLORES

A MAN armed with a semiautomatic pistol was able to breach the security cordon of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and enter a supposedly secure area in Parañaque City just minutes before the President arrived late Saturday afternoon.

But the local police was alerted to the presence of the potential assassin and arrested Jeriel Valerio, who was armed with a .9mm pistol, at the St. Andrew's Church in Barangay La Huerta, Parañaque about 4:30 p.m.

The President was scheduled to visit the church at 5 p.m. Saturday to attend the first anniversary celebration of the canonization of St. Buensoceso, a local saint.

Insp. Glen Tigson, chief investigator of the Parañaque police, said Valerio, 27, a salesman and resident of Vera Ville, Manuela Dinar Street, Las Piñas City, had no permit to carry outside his residence the licensed .9mm Beretta.

Tigson said Valerio was driving a black Mazda sedan (UKK 211) and was about to enter the grounds of St. Andrew's Church with sirens blaring when policemen stopped him.

PO3 Eric Sarino said an alarm was earlier issued for Valerio's car

GUNMAN/A20

Mayor has second thoughts about Rizal dumpsite

BY AGNES DONATO

MAYOR Pedro Cuerpo of Rodriguez (formerly Montalban) town in Rizal is now reconsidering his offer to provide a sanitary landfill for Metro Manila garbage.

"I still need to hear the sentiments of my constituents," Cuerpo said after about Rodriguez 1,000 residents staged a rally yesterday to protest the plan to accommodate Metro Manila garbage in the town.

"If it turns out that majority of the residents oppose the plan, then we will not pursue it anymore," the mayor said.

Cuerpo met with leaders of some non-government organizations and local residents on Sunday and saw and heard how the people were resisting the plan.

"We've already heard what they want," he said. "I have to meet with them again so that we can finally decide on the matter."

But he stressed that there were also some people who are in favor of the plan.

MAYOR/A20

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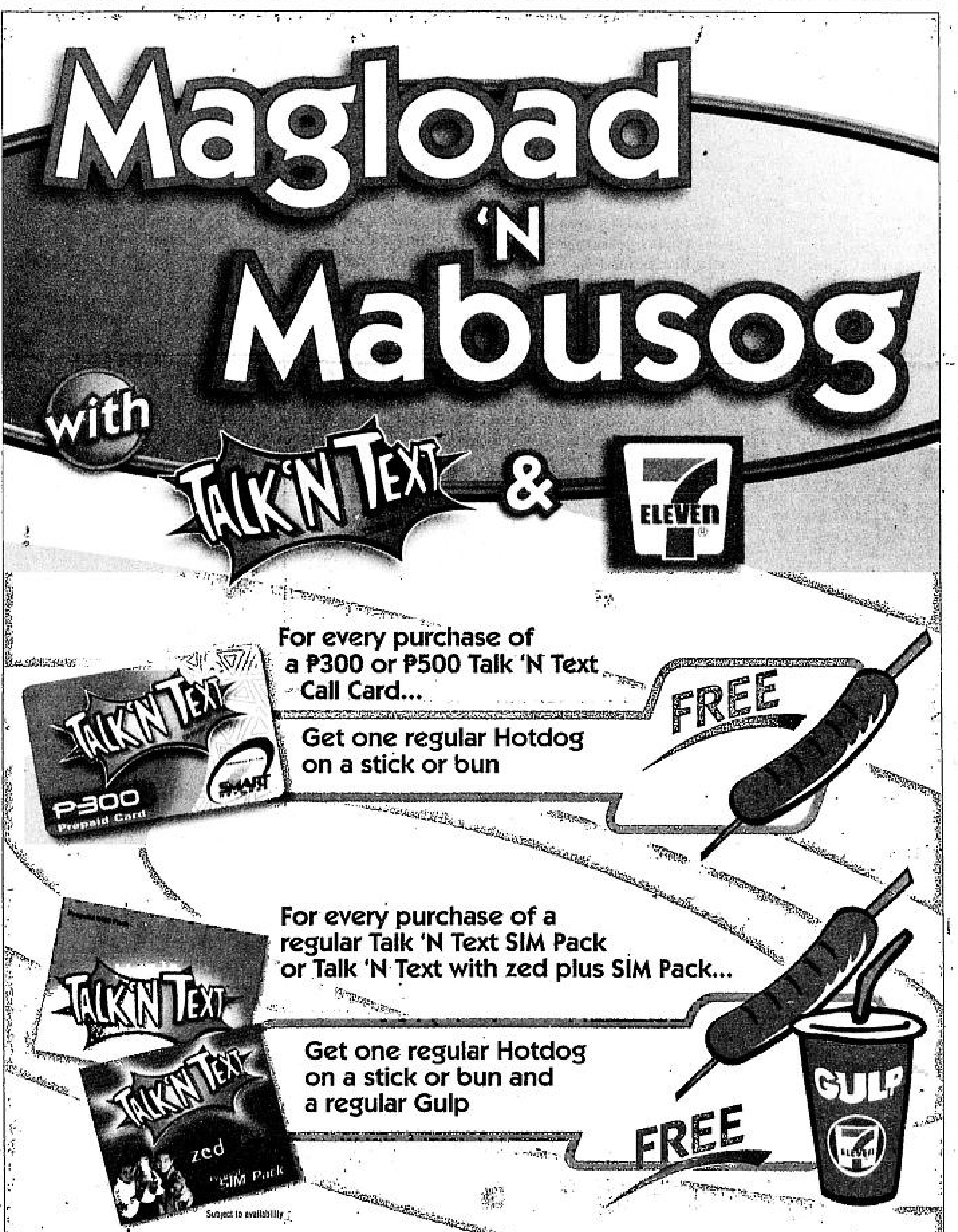

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LRT hit by chaos

By Alcuin Papa

LONG lines of commuters formed at stations of the Light Rail Transit yesterday as the mass transport network switched from tokens to computerized cards in its fare system.

At the Edsa station, passengers lined five abreast as of 9 a.m. yesterday, choking the station's stairways and spilling onto the street.

Confusion over the two kinds of cards the LRT ticket booths sold caused the long lines, according to a security guard who did not want to be named.

Under the new system, commuters have the choice of a single-journey fare card that should be used on the day it is purchased, or a preloaded card that costs about P100 and whose value should be consumed over time.

But commuters insisted on buying more than one single- journey card, the way they bought several tokens in one purchase.

Most commuters were also not familiar with the new system and made mistakes in inserting their fare cards into the turnstiles.

"It's high-tech but when I used tokens before I didn't have to line up in (queues) this long," said Mia Santillian, 24, an office worker in Manila.

Her companion Fides Babiera, 21, was busy fanning herself in the sweltering mid-morning heat. "There might be a lack of information dissemination regarding the new system," she said. "That's why a lot of people are confused."

Engineer Rod Bulario, Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) head of engineering and operations, told the Inquirer that the large volume of people and the lack of public information on the new system contributed to the confusion and long lines.

"There used to be scalpers selling tokens on the sidewalks," he said. "Now, the sale of the cards is concentrated in the ticket booths."

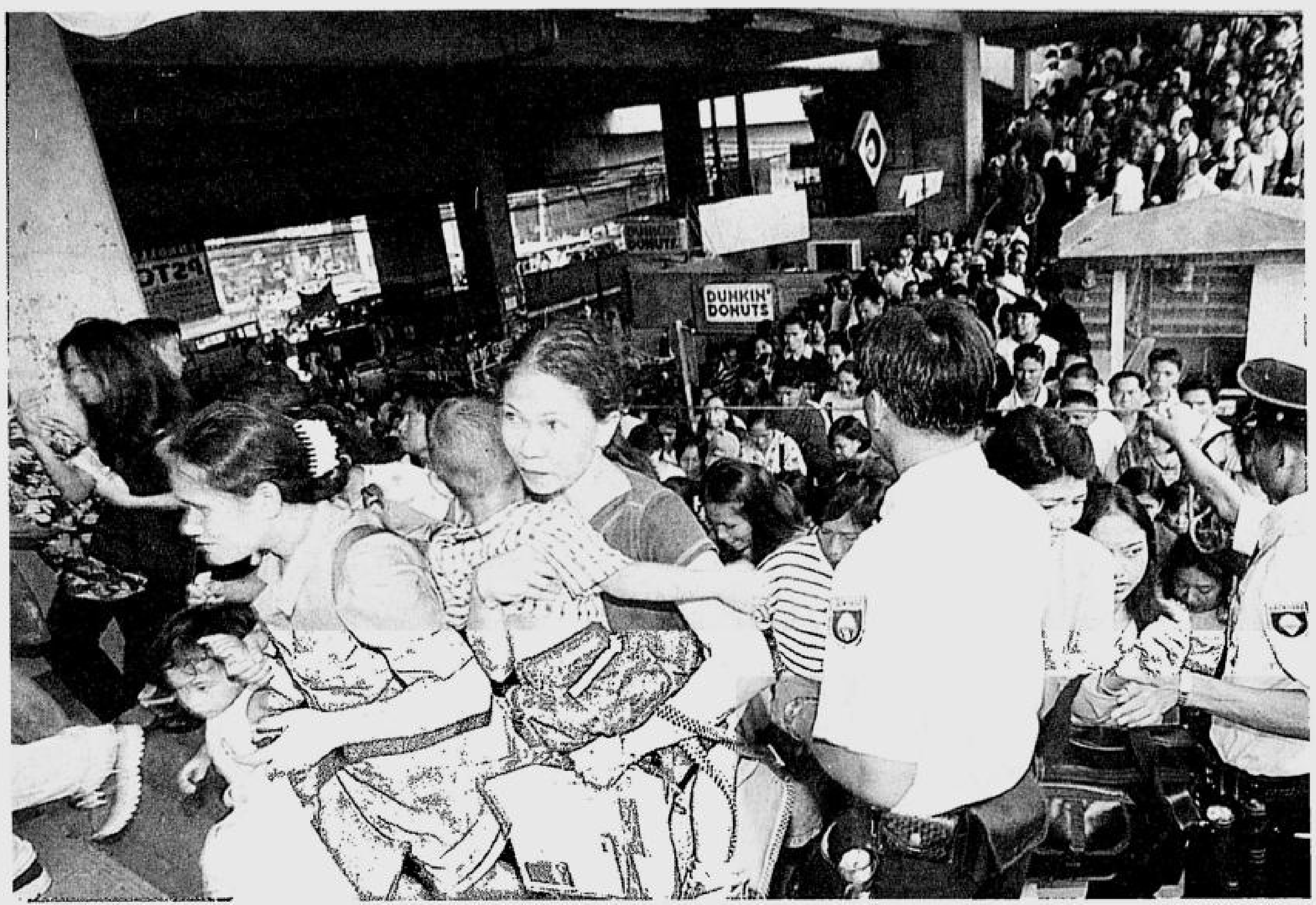
He said that the LRTA did not anticipate the big number of people who would be using the LRT during the introduction of the new fare system.

But he agreed that selling tokens was easier since the cards have to be encoded in the ticket booths upon purchase.

Bulario, who visited the stations supervising the implementation of the new system, said they have prepared measures to ease the confusion.

For example, Bulario said, they would be selling single-journey cards that have been encoded the night before to facilitate the selling at the ticket booths.

The LRTA would also post visual aids near the booths and turnstiles to guide commuters on how to use the fare cards.



RANDY HORMILLOSA

RUSH-HOUR crowd, slowed by the confusion over the new fare system, fills the stairs leading up to the Monumento LRT station.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, September 11, 2001
23rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Col 2:6-15**
Gospel: **Lk 6:12-19**

Jesus went out into the hills to pray, spending the whole night in prayer with God. When day came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them whom he called apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James son of Alpheus and Simon called the Zealot; Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who would be the traitor.

Coming down the hill with them, Jesus stood on a level place. Many of his disciples were there and a large crowd of people who had come from all parts of Judea and Jerusalem and from the coastal cities of Tyre and Sidon. They gathered to hear him and be healed of their diseases; likewise people troubled by evil spirits were healed. All the crowd tried to touch him because of the power which went out from him and healed them all.

Commentary

No other gospel than that of Luke frequently presents Jesus as praying. Here we find Jesus praying on a mountain the whole night. He prays before making a very important decision to help him in his ministry: the selection of the right people to assist him in his mission. After the successful selection, Luke describes Jesus going down the mountain healing the sick and people with unclean spirits. Through his prayer, Jesus acquires so much power that he cures them all. We need to pray also before making important decisions in life. Our prayer may not totally be granted by God, like that of Jesus, as shown by failure of Judas Iscariot, but the probability of success is totally assured. We too can heal if we are prayerful.

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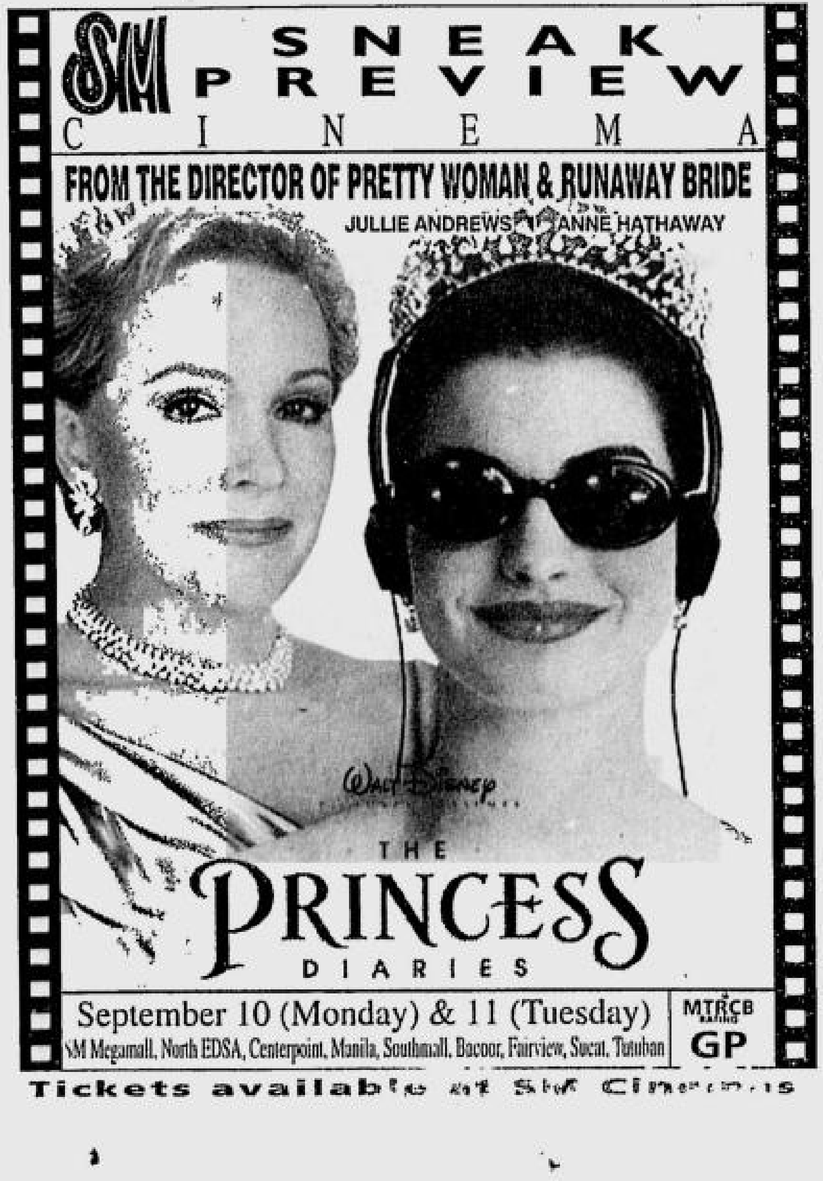
SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (JUSTIFYING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Defense of relative—For the justifying circumstance of defense of relative to be credited in favor of an accused, the following requisites must be proven: (1) unlawful aggression; (2) reasonable necessity of the means employed to repel it; and (3) in case the provocation was given by the person attacked, the one making the defense had no part therein. The burden is on the accused to prove these elements of self-defense or defense of relative. Here, none of these requisites has been proven by accused-appellants. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, People v. Amazan, G.R. Nos. 136251, 138606, 138607, January 16, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera



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'Gang of Five' puts colleagues to shame

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SEN. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson said last Friday it was cruel of his accusers to bring up the charges of money laundering, drug trafficking and kidnapping-for-ransom against him.

The good senator should be reminded that it was him, not his accusers, who brought the trouble upon himself.

Had he been an honest public servant when he was in the police, people would still be shouting hossanas to him even after his election to the Senate.

***

Had he not forgotten what he told this columnist many years ago— when he was still a young lieutenant— he would not be undergoing the mental torture that he is experiencing today.

First Lt. Panfilo Lacson of the Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group (MISG) told me that there was no such thing as a perfect crime. The criminal, he said, would leave telltale marks pointing to himself.

According to the young Lacson, if a criminal was not identified immediately his identity would be uncovered years later.

How prophetic of Ping Lacson to say that. He didn't know it then but he was referring to himself.

***

Lacson blames President Macapagal-Arroyo for his present woes. He says that GMA wants to get rid of a potential rival in the 2004 presidential election.

The neophyte said the next target of character assassination is Education Secretary Raul Roco who, according to Lacson, is another probable presidential candidate three years from now.

Lacson hasn't changed his ways. He is a sower of intrigue.

***

I know whereof I speak because I covered Lacson at the MISG as a police reporter. Lacson is an expert at sowing intrigue.

One night at the MISG headquarters, I saw then Capt. Reynaldo Berroya, Lacson's immediate superior, beat up an MISG rank and file member. Somebody had complained to Berroya that the soldier, who was called "Big Boy" in derisive reference to his small frame, abused a civilian. Berroya, I understood then, was giving Big Boy a dose of his own medicine.

The following morning I visited Lacson at his office to follow up on a big story at the time. I saw Big Boy crying while he was telling Lacson what happened to him the night before.

***

Lacson listened intently and told Big Boy: "*Ang liit-liit mo, sinuntok ka niya. Sarhento ka pa man din, hindi ka na niya ginalang. Sa susunod, labanan mo siya* (You're so small and yet he did that to you. You're already a sergeant, he should have given you the respect. Next time he does that to you again, fight back)."

I was dumbfounded by what I heard. I pretended not to have heard anything and immediately left the room.

I thought it was unbecoming to an officer and gentlemanly to prod a soldier to fight a superior officer. I may not have agreed with Berroya's action, but I wouldn't have encouraged an enlisted man to fight my superior officer if I were Lacson.

***

And yet, when he was in front of Berroya Lacson was servilely courteous. He was like a sheep.

If I were Lacson I would have asked to talk to Berroya and told him in a very nice and roundabout way—remember Berroya was a superior officer— that what he did was wrong. I would have engaged my superior officer in a man-to-man, subordinate-to-superior, gentleman officer-to-another, type of talk.

I didn't tell Berroya what I heard from Lacson because I didn't want them to quarrel. Both of them were my friends.

***Hanggang ngayon intrigador pa rin si* Ping.**

***,

So, the House of Representatives has finally exposed the alleged extortion activities of five of its members.

"Gang of Five," that's what they call them.

The five congressmen allegedly summoned businessmen and government officials to their committees for investigation in "aid of legislation."

***

In truth, the investigation was in aid of extortion. The congressmen concerned would shake down their prey.

The Gang of Five has brought shame to their honest colleagues.

But, honorable members of the house, there are not only five, there are more thieves among you. Look again.

These dishonorable congressmen have brought some semblance of truth to the allegations that the house is the "House of Representa-thieves."

***

I don't believe the charge that Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva interfered in the military operation against the Abu Sayyaf during the hostage situation in Lamitan, Basilan, resulting in the military's greatest debacle.

No general worth his salt would ever interfere in operational matters, especially if he was not in the area. A general is a professional soldier and he knows his business.

The AFP chief of staff does not tell his subordinate generals what to do in combat. He is too far removed from the combat zone to know what is happening in the area.

In the military, the chain of command is strictly observed.

Mayor . . .

(From page A19)

"They understand that I am only allowing Metro Manila garbage to be dumped here because I believe that it will bring progress to our town," Cuerpo said.

Asked why the public hearing came after the issuance of the environmental compliance certificate for the planned dumpsite, Cuerpo explained that the plan of the local government to conduct a consultation with the people was overtaken by the early announcements made by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

Still, he maintained that his proposal would bring opportunities and progress to the municipality.

"If I would have my way, I'd really want the plan to be carried out," he said. "But we can't just disregard the sentiments of the people. Their opinion has to be given consideration."

Wake up, VACC tells kidnapping probers

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE HEAD of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption yesterday criticized Valenzuela police for what he called their "lethargic" investigation of the kidnapping of four Chinese businessmen and a Filipino-Chinese student in the city early this month.

"Authorities should do something about the menace before Valenzuela becomes the kidnapping capital of Metro Manila," VACC chair Dante Jimenez yesterday told the Inquirer.

Jimenez lashed out at local authorities for their failure to come up with substantial leads in the two kidnapping incidents that happened in a span of barely a week.

The newly installed Valenzuela police chief, Supt. Leopoldo Urena, has been silent on the progress or lack of it in the investigation of the Sept. 1 abduction of four Chinese businessmen by six heavily armed men in Barangay Ugong.

He is also mum on developments on the disappearance of Irvin Kho, 29, who was abducted from his house in Barangay Parada on Sept. 6 by eight men armed with M-16 rifles.

Jimenez speculated that local police refuse to talk about the kidnappings because "they are not capable of solving the cases."

The Philippine National Police, he said, should relieve ranking police officers in Valenzuela and replace them with more competent policemen.

When the Inquirer tried to get an update on Kho's kidnapping, Urena said he and his men were not authorized to talk about the case since it was already under the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Gunman ...

(From page A19)

because he reportedly ignored a police checkpoint in nearby Barangay Don Galo.

Tigson said that when police accosted Valerio, he tried to evade arrest by arrogantly identifying himself as an "intelligence operative" of the Philippine National Police.

But Tigson said Valerio could not show any identification supporting his claim and was promptly arrested.

"He was asked to get out of his car and it was at this point that a member of the arresting team saw the gun in the passenger seat," Tigson said.

Although police downplayed the incident, it was clear the suspect presented a serious threat, said a local barangay official, who asked not to be named.

Valerio was taken to the Parañaque police station headquarters and was charged with illegal possession of firearms before the city prosecutor's office, Sarino said.

Cell phone card dealer robbed of P6.5 million

BUSINESSMAN Oscar Ramos lost P6.5 million in cash to three robbers, one of them a woman, in Quezon City yesterday afternoon.

Ramos, 42, a distributor of prepaid cellular phone cards and a resident of 8th Avenue in Cubao, Quezon City, said he was robbed while he was on his way to deposit the money in a bank, according to investigator PO2 Ferdinand Paredes of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Paredes said Ramos placed the money in two boxes— P4.3 million in one box and P2.3 million in the other.

The bigger amount was supposed to be deposited in the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) branch in Cubao while the smaller amount was to be deposited in the International Exchange Bank, also in Cubao, Paredes said.

The investigator said Ramos was walking and was at the corner of 9th Avenue and Edsa when the robbers struck around 1 p.m.

Ramos said two men suddenly appeared and blocked his path. They drew handguns and announced the holdup, he said.

Ramos said the two men grabbed the two boxes of money from him. The woman acted as a lookout, Paredes added.

The two men and the woman ran in different directions, Ramos said.

Police are looking at the possibility that the culprits were picked up by accomplices after the holdup.

Investigators were trying to get descriptions of the culprits from Ramos and possible witnesses, according to Paredes.

Philip C. Tubeza

14-year-old gang 'boss' arrested

By Jerome Aning

POLICE arrested on Sunday night the 14-year-old leader of a notorious street gang for beating to death a nautical engineering student in Pandacan, Manila just hours earlier.

Supt. Jose Bantigue of the Western Police District said the boy is the leader of the "Markang Bungo" street gang, whose members also reportedly beat up to death a high school freshman in Pandacan last June.

Police arrested the 14-year-old suspect and Allan Custodio, 30, a food catering agency employee, who allegedly helped out in beating up Roderick Garcia, 28, at a basketball court on Quirino Avenue, about 4 p.m. Sunday.

The suspected gang leader told police he was with Custodio's brother and some friends Sunday and were playing basketball with Garcia when they had an argument.

The suspect said Garcia slapped him in the face without provocation and even tried to stab him and Custodio's brother with a dagger.

Bantigue said the boy took a sharp, hollow, cylindrical metal weapon called *buriki* and used it on Garcia, while his companions sought out Custodio.

The boy admitted he stabbed Garcia twice. He added that Custodio's brother and another gang member named Vince—-armed with a wooden club and iron bar—-helped him beat up the victim until the latter fell unconscious.

Garcia, a student of the Philippine Maritime Institute in Sta. Cruz, Manila and a resident of Kahilum I Street, Pandacan, died about two hours later at the Manila Medical Center.

Bantigue said his men caught the boy on Kahilum Street about 8 p.m. that night while Custodio surrendered to police. The younger Custodio is still at large, police said.

Bantigue said the boy and his street gang were also involved in a gang fight where Elvis Bisaya, 21, a high school freshman, was beaten to death on June 8.

The boy and Custodio are detained at the WPD Integrated Jail awaiting homicide charges to be filed against them.

Caloocan businessman robbed of cash, cell phones

A BUSINESSMAN lost at least P700,000 in cash and cellular phones to two armed robbers who broke into his house in Caloocan City early yesterday morning.

Albert Lim, 47, said he was robbed by two men who pretended to be policemen in his house on 9th Ave. West around 7 a.m., according to police.

Lim owns Adjetcom Marketing, a cellular phone shop at the Virra Mall in Greenhills, San Juan.

The robbers entered through the gate that a maid had left open, Lim told investigators.

One of the gunmen was aged between 35 and 37 years old and had brown complexion and an oval face, police said. He was also wearing denim pants.

As Lim and his family were about to take their breakfast, the two men suddenly appeared at the main door and ordered them to surrender their money at gunpoint.

It took the suspects only five minutes to take the P600,000 cash that was kept in a drawer and 20 units of Nokia 3310 cellular phones worth P100,000, Lim said.

"They seemed to know exactly what they wanted to take from me," he said. "Perhaps they just live in the neighborhood."

He said he was supposed to deposit the cash in a bank later in the day. The amount represented his earnings over the weekend, he said.

MAYOR, Inihalal Kayo para pabangu-hin ang BAYAN hindi PABAHUIN!
LANGAW, IPIS, UOD AT IBA PA... YAN ANG DULOT SA AMIN NG BUNDOK NA BASURA!

YOUNG AND PROTESTING
The young residents of Barangay Daniel Fajardo in Las Piñas City joined their elders in a recent rally against the dumping of garbage in their community. Parents claimed that children were being affected by the filth and the stink. RANDY HORMILLOSA

5 policemen charged with 2 killings

By Jerome Aning

FIVE Western Police District members were charged with homicide in connection with the killings of a suspected drug pusher and a high school student in Quiapo, Manila last Thursday.

The policemen, from the WPD Station 8's community precinct on Palanca Street at the Islamic Center in San Miguel, Quiapo, allegedly shot dead Mastura Andal, 18, and Ramil Magomon, 28, without a fight during an operation.

The WPD director, Senior Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr., earlier ordered that SPO1 Angelito Pelia, PO3 Artemio Bautista, PO3 Federico Chua, PO3 Alvin Lee Sente and PO1 Nelson de la Pena be placed under the custody of their immediate superior.

Chief Insp Juanito Taluban, head of the WPD homicide section, said the filing of the charges against the five is based on the results of the autopsy and paraffin tests conducted on the bodies of the victims.

Taluban said Andal and Magomon were tested negative for powder burns. Several witnesses have come to the police to testify that Magomon was executed while Andal was shot without any reason.

Taluban said the five would also be charged with serious physical injuries and would be held responsible for the wounding of two civilians, Hausa Lallhaguia, 19, and Arion Yusouf, 8, who were hit by stray bullets.

The Manila city prosecutor's office has ordered the five policemen to submit their counter-affidavits. The WPD is also expected to initiate administrative cases against them.

The suspects said they were accosting Magomon, a suspected drug pusher, for gun-toting when his henchmen tried to rescue him. They said they merely defended themselves and in the process also shot Magomon, who allegedly trained his gun at them.

One of the policemen, PO3 Chua, was shot in the leg during the gun battle.

But several residents claimed that Magomon was shot at close range in a sitting position and that the policemen fired indiscriminately.

Daring robber breaks into Mandaluyong police headquarters

By Agnes Donato

A DARING house painter was arrested yesterday after he sneaked into four unattended offices of the Mandaluyong police station and stole cash and jewelry while the authorities were attending the flag ceremony at the City Hall compound.

Melchor Mendoza, 30, of Barangay San Perfecto in San Juan, was apparently so confident he could get away with the crime that he went from one room to another and took all the valuables he could carry.

But his luck ran out and he was arrested by SPO4 Carlos Magat while he was sneaking out of the police station's warrant section.

Supt. Sukarno Ikbala, Mandaluyong police chief, said Mendoza failed to explain his presence in the police headquarters. A subsequent search showed that he had taken a total of P7,000 in cash and jewelry from the four police offices.

Ikbala said Mendoza was apparently aware that the policemen and civilian employees had vacated their offices to attend the weekly flag-raising ceremony.

Investigation showed that Mendoza first entered the office of the local Department of Interior and Local Government but left shortly after he found nothing of importance in the room.

He transferred to the operations division and took the wallet of civilian employee Eliza Lim. The wallet contained P1,000 cash and valuable cards.

Mendoza then proceeded to the office of the police community relations office where he took some P600 cash and a gold ring from another employee, Salve de los Trinos.

Witnesses said Mendoza was also seen entering the office of the Women's Desk on the second floor but left in haste when he saw a woman officer arriving.

Instead of just leaving through the back door, Mendoza decided to first pass by the warrant section, where he was caught by Magat.

FIRST BASE!

Ikaw ang unang makakaalam. Base sa pinakamagaling na telenovela creators sa buong mundo ay isang natatanging serya ng pagtataksil, panlilinlang at walang tigil na pag-iibigan---Por Un Beso. On its Philippine premiere: September 10, 2001 ganap na 9:30 ng gabi. 'Di nakakasawang araw-arawin, kaya home-run na! Dito lang sa Viva TV.

POR
UN
BESO
For one kiss

A single kiss can lead to another.

Monday to Friday, 9:30 pm

vivatv
On IBC Channel 13

ROUNDUP IN BINONDO

Drug ring busted

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation uncovered another drug syndicate in Binondo, Manila with the arrest last week of three young alleged drug traffickers in Manila, according to NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

Wycoco said NBI agents seized two kilos of shabu worth P3 million from suspects Hong Yen E, 24, of Fugoso Street in Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tsien Tsien Chua, 26, of Binondo, Manila; and her husband, Gun Jie Ang, 24, of Abad Santos Street in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Yesterday, Wycoco ordered his men to launch a massive manhunt on the other members of the syndicate.

"The recent apprehension of the suspects is in keeping with the agency's relentless drive against drug trafficking," he said.

The suspects, who spoke only Fookienese, did not have any travel documents, investigation showed.

They are now facing drug charges before the Manila City prosecutor's office. No bail was recommended for their temporary release.

Lawyer Ruel Lasala, chief of the NBI Narcotics Division, said the raid was conducted on a fast-food chain in Binondo on Sept. 5.

"On the night of Sept. 5, Hong Yen informed a poseur-buyer about the availability of two kilos of shabu, but he demanded to see the money first," Lasala said.

After showing the money, the poseur-buyer was instructed to follow Hong Yen to Lai-Lai Restaurant on Ongpin Street, Lasala said.

"Suspect Hong entered the restaurant while the poseur-buyer waited outside," he added.

A few minutes later, a Chinese couple, later identified as Tsien Tsien and Gun Jie, arrived carrying a plastic shopping bag containing the two kilos of shabu, Lasala said.

He said that upon Hong Yen's orders, the couple handed the shopping bag to the buyer. NBI agents then arrested the three and confiscated the shabu.

The suspects were brought to the NBI main office in Manila for interrogation.

Subsequent tests by the NBI chemistry division on the substance showed it to contain methamphetamine hydrochloride, authorities said.

TOURIST
POLICE

TOURISM CLEANUP
Policemen arrested men they found drinking liquor along the breakwater on Roxas Boulevard, including these pair who were also caught with a kettle of mussels for "pulutan." The roundup is part of the cleanup campaign of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon. EDWIN BACASMAS

Tanghali na, nanonood ka pa rin ng TV. Ang cute mo talaga!

Iba't ibang mukha ng buhay ang makikita mo sa pinakabagong telenovelang handog sa inyo ng Viva TV.

Napakahirap lubayan at siguradong kagigiliwan at pag-uusapan ng lahat. Simula September 12, 12:30 pm, masdan at subaybayan ang tunay na mukha ng mabuti at masama. Carita de angel---ang cute-cute mo!

carita de ángel
angel face
Mon. to Fri., 12:30 nn.
vivatv
On IBC Channel 13

Driver on drugs beats colleague to death in QC

By Philip C. Tubeza

RAFAEL de la Cruz, said to have gone mad because of his use of illegal drugs, bashed the skull of his fellow tricycle driver with a lead pipe in Quezon City on Sunday.

De la Cruz, 38, of Libra Street, T.S. Cruz, Zabarte, Quezon City, told police he killed Trion A. Quiñones for allegedly spreading rumors that he was a drug pusher.

Quiñones, 32, of Cicada Street, Quezon City, was walking on Libra Street about 11:30 a.m. Sunday when De la Cruz sneaked up from behind and, without warning, hit Quiñones' head with the lead pipe, said investigator PO1 Romel Merino of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit.

De la Cruz's first blow hit the victim in the nape and sent him staggering on the roadside, Merino said.

"But even when the victim was already down, the suspect continued to beat (Quiñones') head until it cracked open," Merino added.

De la Cruz fled when he saw bystanders gathering around him to stop him, Merino said.

The bystanders took Quiñones to the Far Eastern University hospital in Fairview where he was pronounced dead at 1:35 p.m., Merino said.

Police began their search for De la Cruz immediately after witnesses identified him as the killer, Merino added.

When the lawmen caught up with De la Cruz about 10 a.m. yesterday, he tried to escape twice while pretending he had gone mad.

Merino said that while the suspect was being taken to the CPD CIU headquarters in Camp Karingal, Sikatuna Village, Quezon City, De la Cruz tried to jump out of the police car while they were driving on the Tandang Sora flyover on Commonwealth Avenue.

In Camp Karingal, De la Cruz began singing to himself before he tried to run out of the office while he was handcuffed.

Merino said although the suspect had been confined in drug rehabilitation centers several times before, De la Cruz had no record of mental instability.

"He just might be pretending to be mad because he does not want to answer to the grave and solid charges against him," Merino said.

Drunken worker shoots 2 dead, hurts 1 in Taguig

A DRUNKEN construction worker went berserk and shot dead two people and injured another in Taguig.

Federico Omancito, 51, a retired soldier; and Delia Sanchez, 45, a businesswoman, both residents of Wild Cat Village, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, died from gunshot wounds in different parts of the body.

Lolita Villarez, 37, is now in critical condition after she took a bullet in the stomach.

Police identified the suspect as Jun Martinez, 31, a construction worker.

SPO2 Denni Dacanay said the shooting happened about 8 p.m. Sunday after Martinez got drunk with some of his friends.

While drinking, Martinez got hold of a .45 pistol and started shouting and challenging everybody to a fight, police said.

When he came to Omancito's house, Martinez started firing the gun, hitting the victims.

He escaped after the shooting, police said. *Alcuin Papa*

Floating book fair is back

GOOD news for book worms and ship lovers: The largest floating bookshop in the world, the MV Doulos, is returning to Manila's South Harbor for the fourth time.

The book fair on board the Doulos has more than 6,000 titles on display and for sale for the whole family. Subjects range from science, medicine and management to literature, hobby and children's books. The book fair also provides a wide range of educational books on computer science, accounting, law, physics and geography.

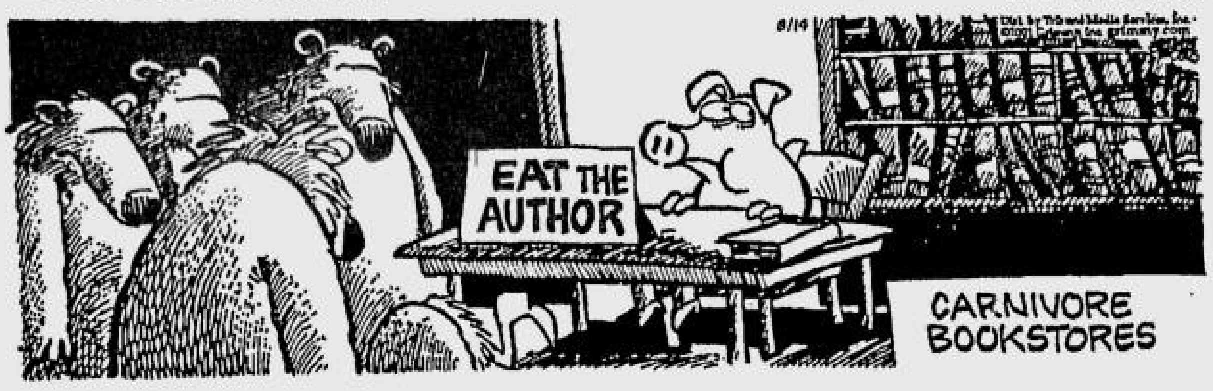
For the duration of its Manila visit, the Doulos will be giving up to 90 percent off the normal selling price on all textbooks.

The bookshop will be open to the public daily from Sept. 14 to Oct. 7, Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Berth 13 at Manila's South Harbor.

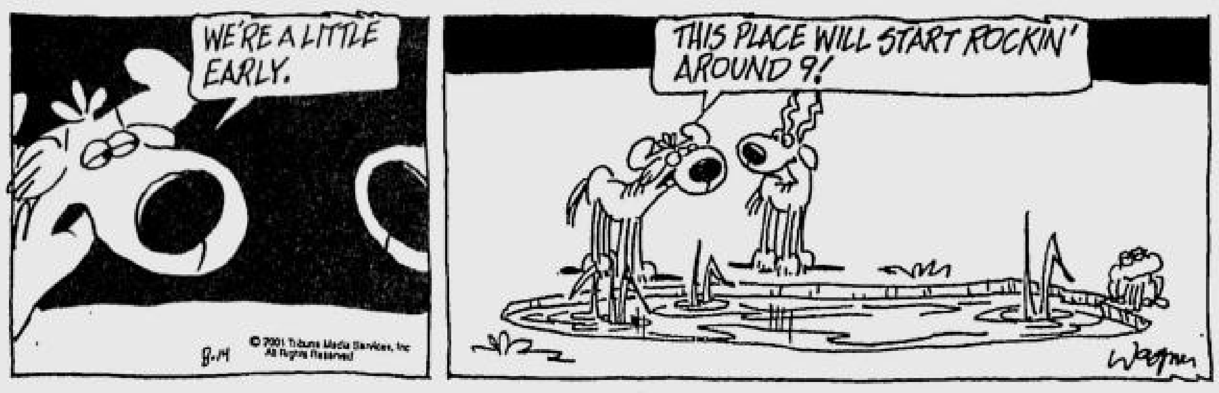
The Doulos is operated by 300 volunteer staff and crew from 35 countries. Most volunteers join for a period of two years, dedicating their time and talents to serving in many nations around the world. They receive on the job training in cross-cultural living and teamwork.

Owned by the German-registered charity Gute Bucher fur Alle (Good Books for All), the project has been widely acclaimed as a genuine expression of international understanding and goodwill.

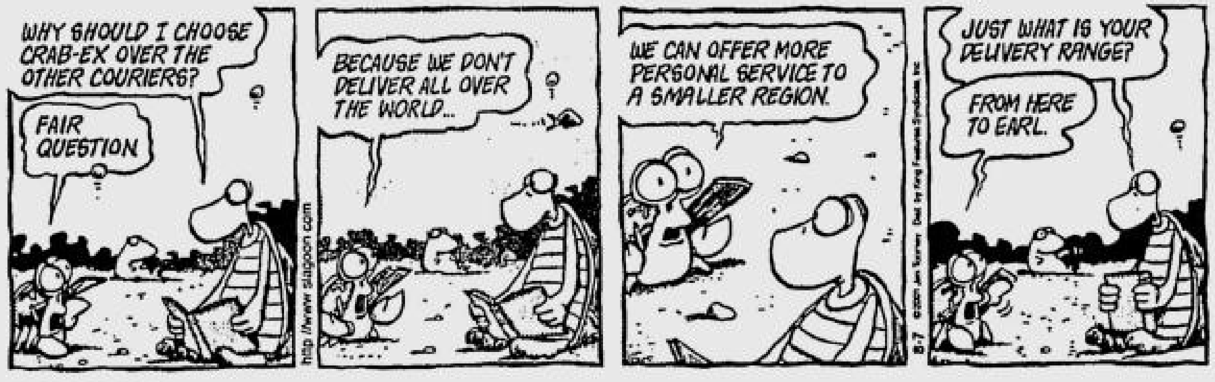
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


EAT THE AUTHOR
CARNIVORE BOOKSTORES
8/14

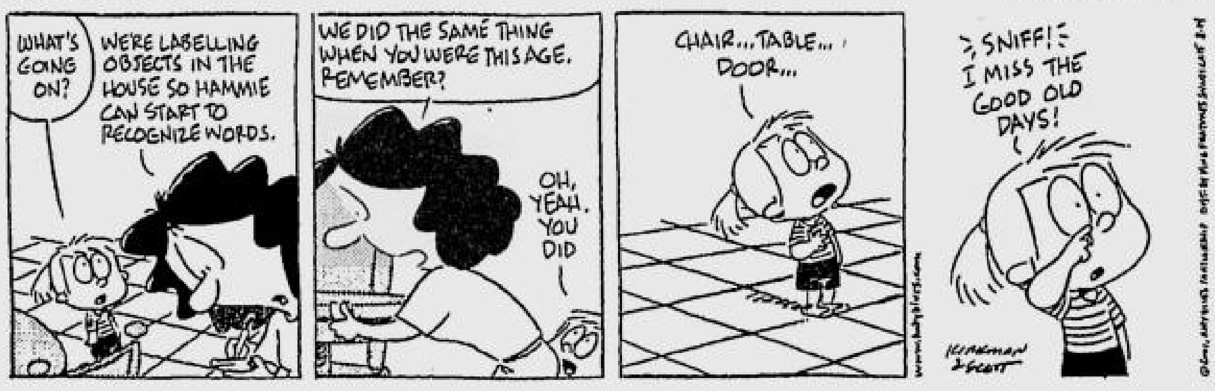
ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


WE'RE A LITTLE EARLY.
THIS PLACE WILL START ROCKIN' AROUND 9!
8-14
© 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc All Rights Reserved
Wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE CRAB-EX OVER THE OTHER COURIERS?
FAIR QUESTION.
BECAUSE WE DON'T DELIVER ALL OVER THE WORLD...
WE CAN OFFER MORE PERSONAL SERVICE TO A SMALLER REGION.
JUST WHAT IS YOUR DELIVERY RANGE?
FROM HERE TO EARL.
http://www.slagoon.com
8-7

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT'S GOING ON?
WE'RE LABELLING OBJECTS IN THE HOUSE SO HAMMIE CAN START TO RECOGNIZE WORDS.
WE DID THE SAME THING WHEN YOU WERE THIS AGE. REMEMBER?
OH, YEAH. YOU DID
CHAIR...TABLE... DOOR...
SNIFF! I MISS THE GOOD OLD DAYS!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brian De Palma, Amy Madigan, Moby, Harry Connick Jr., Lola Falana, Earl Holliman

Happy Birthday: Drastic measures don't usually bring results, but this year you may have to be willing to push the envelope. Be prepared, precise and right to the point. The less you dawdle, the more you'll accomplish. Your numbers: 8, 13, 21, 34, 45, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Break away from everyday routine and do something a little bit different. Being involved in large organizations and lost in the crowd will allow you to observe and gain insight.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Being a good Samaritan will add to your popularity. You will be able to make positive changes to your working conditions by gaining the support of co-workers.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be like the Tasmanian devil today, so full of energy and ideas it will be difficult for the average person to keep. Don't be too quick to judge others who seem to be standing still.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You are under observation. Don't become involved with anyone who may already be married. Keep your feet on the ground and look for a stable partner or stay single for now.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make a difference. Your job of helping others will become easy if your empathize. Your ability as a spokesperson will be admired.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Brown-nosing will lead to jealousy and to conflicts with colleagues, leaving you friendless and the talk of the office. Be productive but don't flaunt your actions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It's time to back off and let the chips fall where they may. Do not pry into the affairs of others. Sudden changes are likely regarding your professional position. Don't take chances.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put your cash in the bank. Taking financial risks will lead to trouble. Problems will result if you have put too much stress on yourself. Life can be enjoyable if you stick to basics.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It won't be all about you today. If loved ones ask for your time, be prepared to give it. If you don't, you may not like the treatment you get in return.

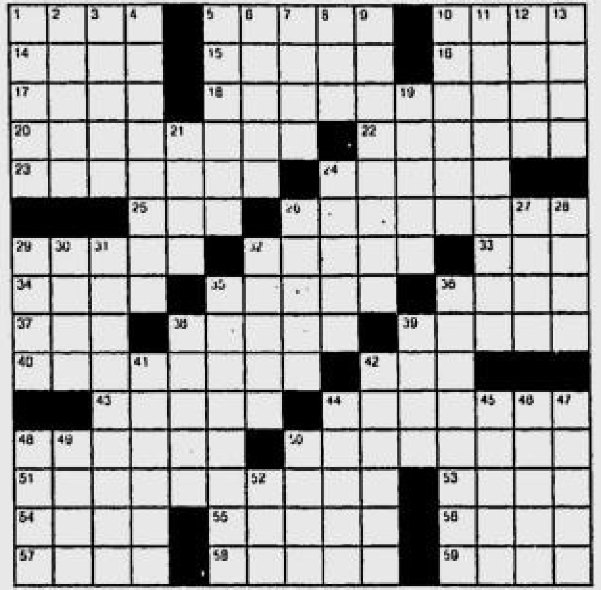
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Expect delays or problems with shipments, mail or equipment. Don't rely on colleagues. Stay put and work on projects that don't require a great deal of travel or communication.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Feeling good about yourself is half the battle, as you've discovered if you've been making some alterations to your appearance. You can expect to attract a lot of attention.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Avoid disputes by treating others with respect and being a little more accommodating. The old saying is true: Actions do speak louder than words. Be affectionate and refrain from being critical or questioning.

Birthday Baby: You are sophisticated and loving. You're a mediator who will have the ability to make others smile and to bring harmony and peace to any situation.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD
7/27/01

ACROSS

1 At a distance
5 Yale or Root
10 Area meas.
14 Small rodent
15 Backless sofa
16 Part of QED
17 Sea of Asia
18 Insufficient
20 Put into difficulties
22 Villa: Sp.
23 Places of worship
24 Riding whip
25 Zany Caesar
26 Somewhat uneasy
29 Suburb of Cleveland
32 Suppress
33 Fauna display
34 Mineral deposits
35 Russian beerlike beverage: var.
36 Pathogen
37 Assistance
38 Ring-toss ring
39 Cheap jewelry
40 Crouches again
42 Clay, today
43 Twentieth of a ream
44 Disciplinarian's letters?
48 Look askance
50 Expels
51 Three-month payment
53 Solo at the Met
54 Wars of the Roses winner
55 Tennessee gridder
56 Puppy barks
57 Conks out
58 Exhausted
59 Window element

DOWN

1 Nautical call
2 Strong suit
3 Warning
4 Backslides
5 Emended
6 Drama dialogue
7 Lendl of tennis
8 I've __ it with you!
9 Disparate ones
10 Wriggle
11 Assigns specific values to
12 Feminist Lucretia
13 Brainstorm
19 Feather pen
21 Pieces of pelvises
24 Search
26 Piers on the Seine
27 Categorize
28 Residence
29 Male swine
30 Gannon College city
31 Moscow landmark
32 Excerpt
35 Sets of four
36 Denies
38 Sequence of five cards in piquet
39 Map of building lots
41 Idiosyncrasies
42 Nod of the head
44 Heathen
45 Andrea, the dictator of Genoa
46 Humorous remarks
47 Hoard
48 Area meas.
49 What: Fr.
50 Blanchett of "Oscar and Lucinda"
52 Grave letters?

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

J	E	T	T	A	■	T	R	O	T	H	■	D	E	E
U	R	B	A	N	■	H	E	L	I	O	■	R	A	M
G	I	A	N	T	P	A	N	D	A	S	■	A	R	M
S	E	R	G	E	A	N	T	■	N	I	M	B	L	Y
■	■	■	O	N	C	E	■	S	T	E	M	■	■	■
R	A	V	I	N	E	■	S	P	I	R	I	T	E	D
A	R	E	N	A	■	R	E	L	A	Y	■	R	A	E
G	O	N	G	■	M	I	L	A	N	■	C	U	T	E
A	M	A	■	B	E	L	L	Y	■	C	R	E	E	D
S	A	L	A	R	I	E	S	■	S	H	I	R	R	S
■	■	■	B	O	X	Y	■	S	P	I	N	■	■	■
M	A	L	A	W	I	■	W	H	A	C	K	I	N	G
I	R	A	■	N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	Z	O	O
L	E	S	■	I	N	A	N	E	■	G	E	O	D	E
L	A	S	■	E	G	G	E	D	■	O	D	D	E	R

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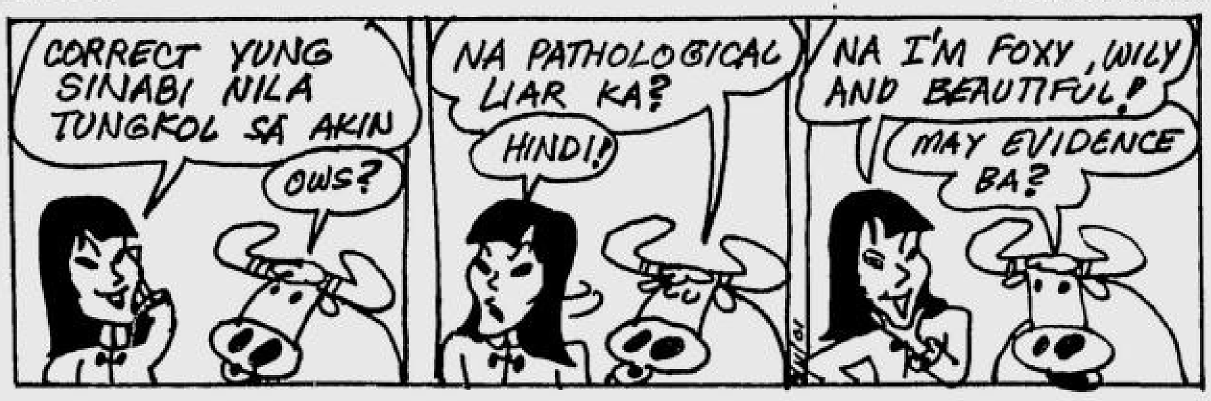
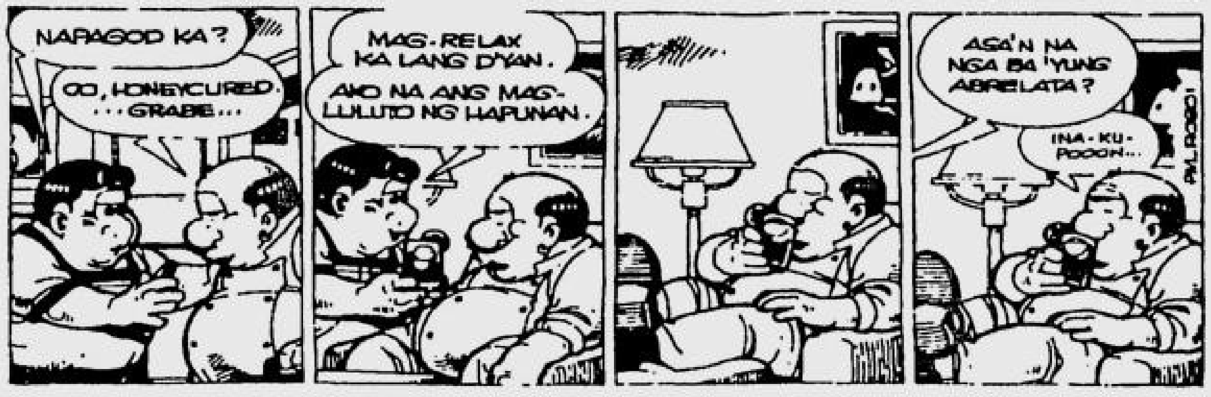
7/27/01

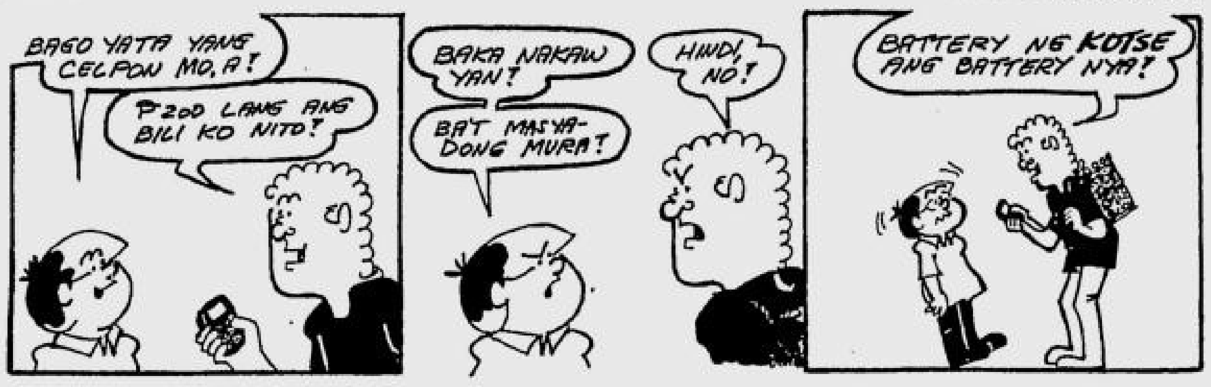
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


CORRECT YUNG SINABI NILA TUNGKOL SA AKIN
OWS?
NA PATHOLOGICAL LIAR KA?
HINDI!
NA I'M FOXY, WILY AND BEAUTIFUL!
MAY EVIDENCE BA?

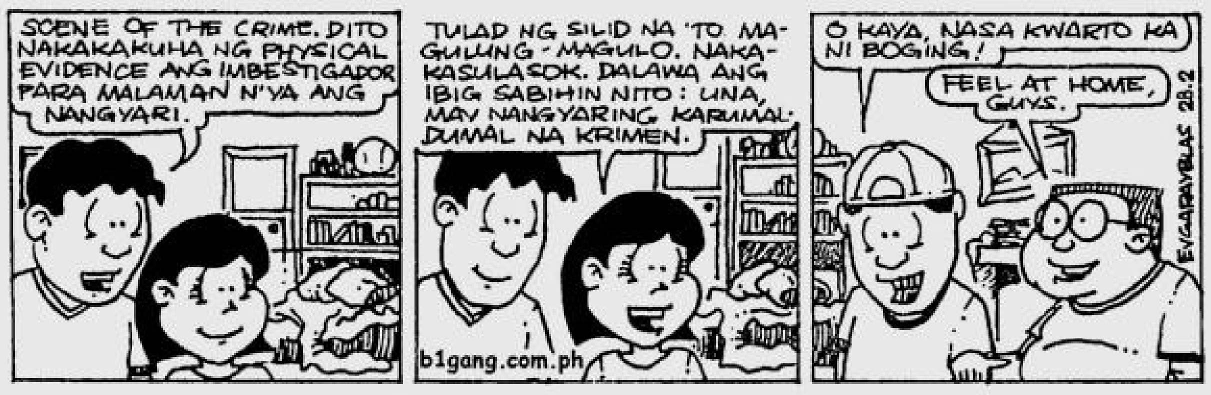
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAPAGOD KA?
OO, HONEYCURED. ...GRABE...
MAG-RELAX KA LANG D'YAN.
AKO NA ANG MAG-LULUTO NG HAPUNAN.
ASA'N NA NGA BA 'YUNG ABRELATA?
INA-KU-POOON...
PM. POBO!

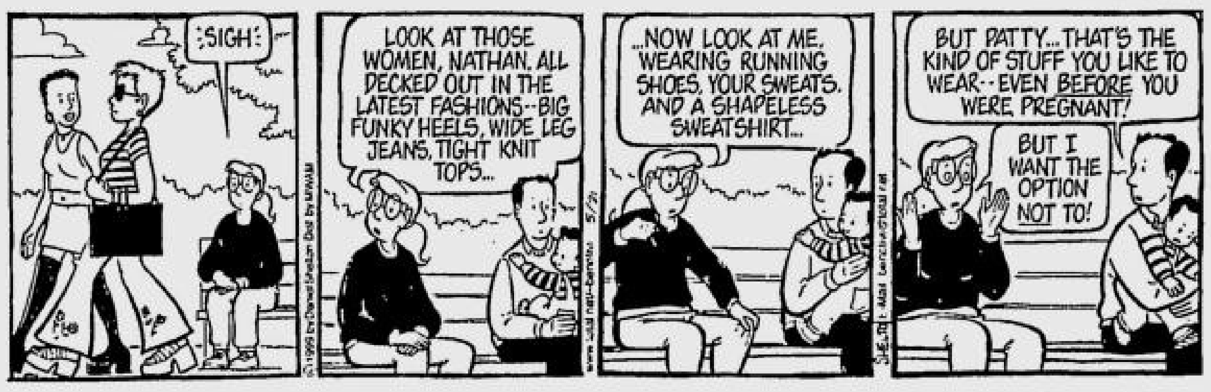
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


BAGO YATA YANG CELPON MO, A!
P200 LANG ANG BILI KO NITO!
BAKA NAKAW YAN!
BA'T MASYADONG MURA?
HINDI, NO!
BATTERY NG KOTSE ANG BATTERY NYA!

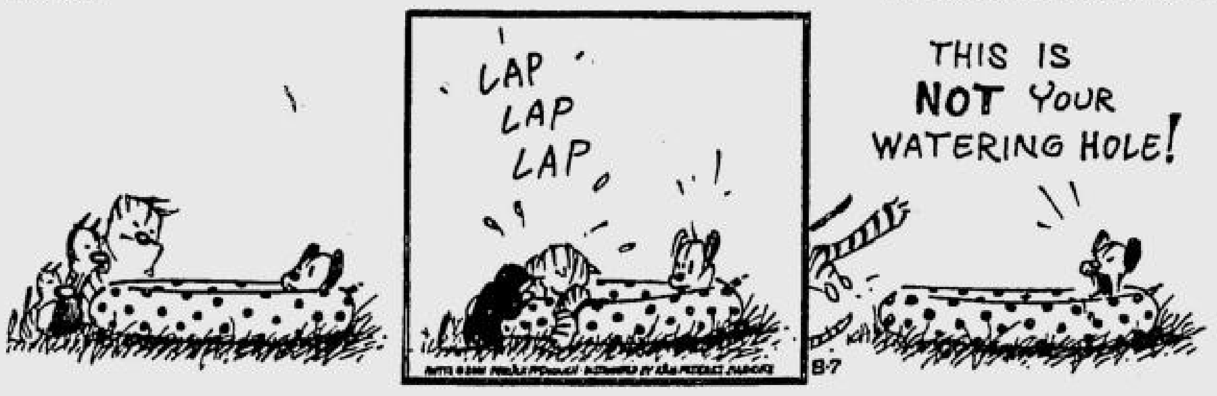
B1 GANG BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


SCENE OF THE CRIME. DITO NAKAKAKUHA NG PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ANG IMBESTIGADOR PARA MALAMAN N'YA ANG NANGYARI.
TULAD NG SILID NA 'TO. MAGULUNG-MAGULO. NAKAKASULASOK. DALAWA ANG IBIG SABIHIN NITO: UNA, MAY NANGYARING KARUMAL-DUMAL NA KRIMEN.
b1gang.com.ph
O KAYA, NASA KWARTO KA NI BOGING!
FEEL AT HOME, GUYS.
EVGARAYBLAS 28.2

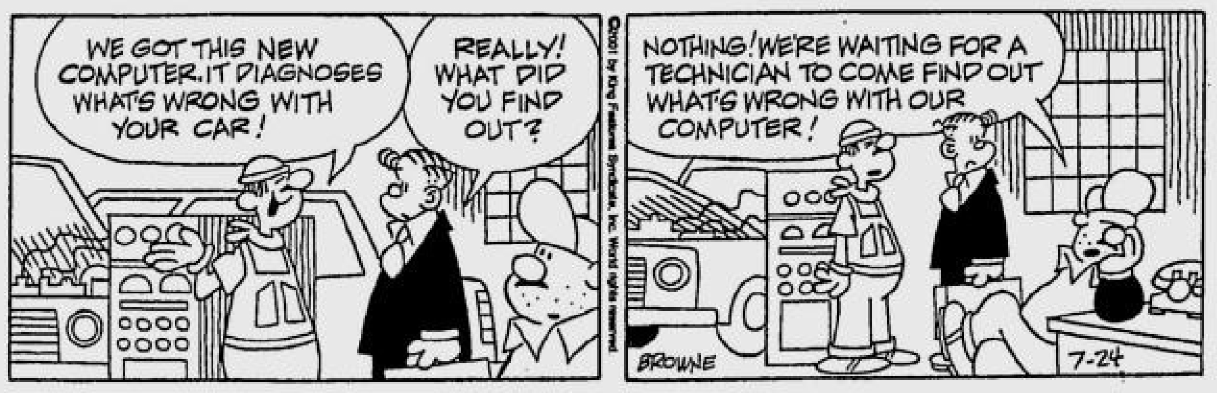
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


SIGH
LOOK AT THOSE WOMEN, NATHAN. ALL DECKED OUT IN THE LATEST FASHIONS--BIG FUNKY HEELS, WIDE LEG JEANS, TIGHT KNIT TOPS...
...NOW LOOK AT ME. WEARING RUNNING SHOES, YOUR SWEATS, AND A SHAPELESS SWEATSHIRT...
BUT PATTY...THAT'S THE KIND OF STUFF YOU LIKE TO WEAR--EVEN BEFORE YOU WERE PREGNANT!
BUT I WANT THE OPTION NOT TO!

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LAP LAP LAP
THIS IS NOT YOUR WATERING HOLE!
8-7

HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WE GOT THIS NEW COMPUTER. IT DIAGNOSES WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR CAR!
REALLY! WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT?
NOTHING! WE'RE WAITING FOR A TECHNICIAN TO COME FIND OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR COMPUTER!
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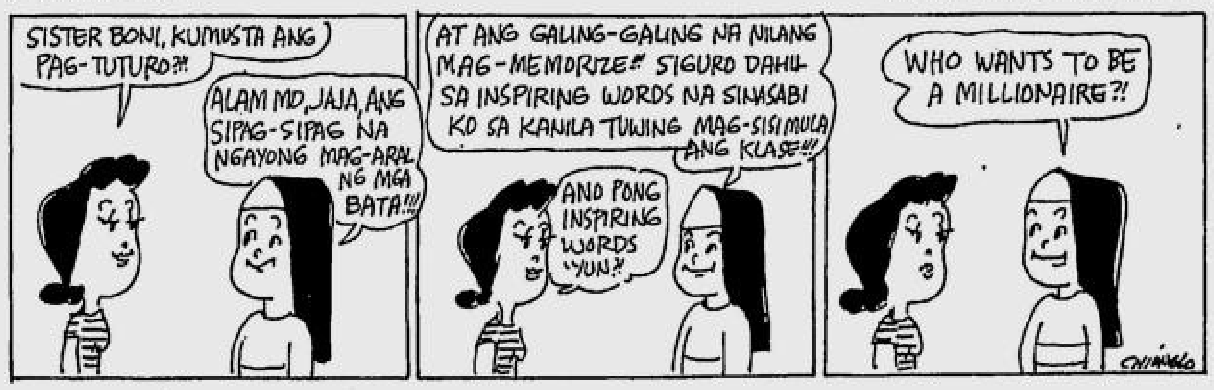
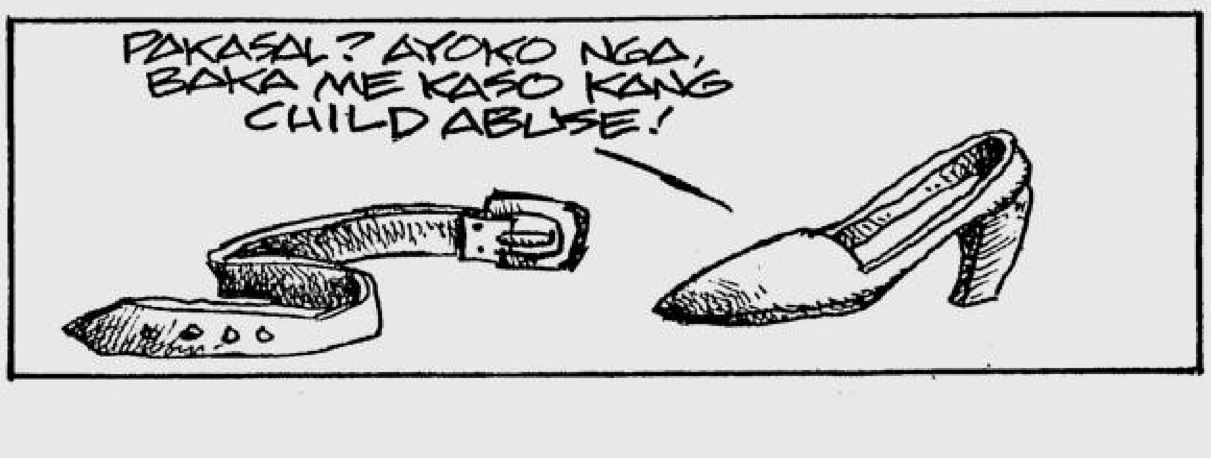
BROWNE
7-24

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SISTER BONI, KUMUSTA ANG PAG-TUTURO?!!
ALAM MO, JAJA, ANG SIPAG-SIPAG NA NGAYONG MAG-ARAL NG MGA BATA!!!
AT ANG GALING-GALING NA NILANG MAG-MEMORIZE!! SIGURO DAHIL SA INSPIRING WORDS NA SINASABI KO SA KANILA TUWING MAG-SISIMULA ANG KLASE!!!
ANO PONG INSPIRING WORDS 'YUN?!
WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE?!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


PAKASAL? AYOKO NGA, BAKA ME KASO KANG CHILD ABUSE!

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4123858

1	CROCODILE 2
2	SEX MEDUSA
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4	PRINCESS DIARIES
5	A.I.
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	SHREK
8	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

SM CENTERPOINT 7148522-7161416

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	CROCODILE 2
3	A.I.
4	SHREK
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
7	PRINCESS DIARIES
8	A.I.
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	PLANET OF THE APES

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	A.I.
5	CROCODILE 2
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	A.I
9	PRINCESS DIARIES
10	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SHREK
12	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	A.I.
2	CROCODILE 2
3	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	PLANET OF THE APES
6	A.I.
7	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
8	SHREK
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
11	RUSH HOUR 2
12	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL

SM MEGAMALL 6331501 • 6339401

1	A.I.
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	A.I.
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	CROCODILE 2
7	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
8	SHREK
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	PRINCESS DIARIES
11	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
12	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

SM TUTUBAN 2514302

1	A.I.
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	PRINCESS DIARIES

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9293452

1	CROCODILE 2
2	A.I.
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
5	PRINCESS DIARIES
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	A.I.
8	RUSH HOUR 2
9	SHREK
10	RUSH HOUR 2
11	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
12	PLANET OF THE APES

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4	PRINCESS DIARIES
5	PLANET OF THE APES
6	SHREK
7	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
8	A.I.
9	CROCODILE 2
10	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820905

1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RUSH HOUR 2

SM CEBU 2313616

1	A.I.
2	SHREK
3	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
4	COMMAND & CONQUER
5	IRA
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	ANIMAL

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	COOL DUDES
2	CLOSED
3	BROTHERHOOD
4	ANIMAL
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	A.I.
7	CLOSED
8	SHREK

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BROTHERHOOD
3	SHREK
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	SEX MEDUSA
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SM SUCAT 8294975

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	A.I.
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	PRINCESS DIARIES

SM DAVAO

1
2
3
4
5
6

SOON TO OPEN
6 STATE-OF-THE-ART
MOVIE THEATERS

DIGITAL dts SOUND   DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

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reserve seats through www.sureseats.com

All Digital Sound

GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD)

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	CROCODILE 2

GLORIETTA 4

1	PRINCESS DIARIES (Adv. Screening) In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	XIU XIU: THE SENT DOWN GIRL (Phil. Premiere) In DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	SHREK In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	RUSH HOUR 2 In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	RUSH HOUR 2 In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	RUSH HOUR 2 In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	PRINCESS DIARIES (Adv. Screening) In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE! SEPT. 15, 16, 21 & 22 - 9PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE THX In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	PRINCESS DIARIES (Adv. Screening) In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	CROCODILE 2 In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	RUSH HOUR 2 In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	CROCODILE 2
2 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
3 (DTS)	A.I.
4 GOLD (DTS)	MOULIN ROUGE
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	A.I.
6 GOLD (SDDS)	A.I.
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
8 [illegible]	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
9 [illegible]	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10 [illegible]	SHREK

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
2	
3 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2 (DTS)	A.I.
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	A.I.
3	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	REPLICANT
3	CROCODILE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A.I.
5	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	CROCODILE
6	A.I.
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7053152 - 55

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	SEX MEDUSA
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3	RUSH HOUR 2

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	CHAIN OF COMMAND
A	NAKED EYE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	A.I.
2	SEX MEDUSA
3	RESERVE
4	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	CROCODILE
7 (DTS)	A.I.
8 (SDDS)	A.I.
9 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
4 (SDDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
5	CROCODILE 2
6 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
7 (DTS)	A.I.
8	A.I.
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	A.I.
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	CROCODILE 2
4	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
5 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
8	A.I.

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3 (DTS)	A.I.
4	PRINCESS DIARIES
5 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	RED DIARIES
Lords	RED DIARIES
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RESERVE
4	A.I

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	A.I.
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3	A.I.
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	SEX MEDUSA

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3	RESERVE

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	CROCODILE 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS)	A.I.

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
2 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DOLBY)	A.I.
4	RUSH HOUR 2

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
3 (DTS)	A.I
4	PRINCESS DIARIES

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	CATS & DOGS
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	CROCODILE 2
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4 (DTS)	A.I.

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS)	A.I.
4	PRINCESS DIARIES
5	SEX MEDUSA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	A.I.
3	RUSH HOUR 2

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	A.I.

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	SHREK
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANINN
3	PARU PARONG LIGAW

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	A.I.
3	BROTHERHOOD

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SEX MEDUSA
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	HUWAD NA HAYOP

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	DUDURUGIN KO . . .
2	A.I.
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	TEENAGE DIARY
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	BROTHERHOOD
4 (DTS EX)	RUSH HOUR 2

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING   THX   DOLBY DIGITAL   dts   SDDS

CMG INTERNATIONAL
[illegible] Compound, Amorsolo cor. Dela Rosa St., Makati City
Tel. No.: 700-8314 to 15
E-Mail: [illegible]
For VIP, Gold, Silver membership, call: 798-3152 to 58
For reservations, call: 751-2010 to 13

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THX
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MTRCB PG-13
HALEY JOEL OSMENT
JUDE LAW
JOURNEY TO A WORLD WHERE ROBOTS DREAMS AND DESIRE
A.I.
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

e-mail: [illegible]
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

NOW SHOWING
State-Of-The-Art-Cinemas

GALLERIA 632 9115-16 / 633-7641 loc. 279

1 THX	A.I.
2	A.I.
3	CROCODILE 2
4	SHREK
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	RUSH HOUR 2
7	MOULIN ROUGE
8	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	A.I.

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	A.I.
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	SHREK
4	A.I.
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	RUSH HOUR 2
7	CROCODILE 2

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1	RESERVED FOR PRIVATE EVENT
2	A.I.
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	A.I.
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	CROCODILE 2
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	SHREK

IMUS (046) 471-8168

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	CROCODILE 2
3	SHREK
4	A.I.
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1	SHREK
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	BROTHERHOOD
5	ANIMAL
6	VENUS

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX   dts   SDDS   DOLBY   DOLBY STEREO

SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	CROCODILE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	KASIBULAN/ TURN ON
ODEON	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ODEON-2	RUSH HOUR 2
ROBEN	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	WOMAN ON TOP/ VALENTINE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	TOMB RAIDERS / GET CARTER
QUEZON-1	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
REMAR	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
REMAR-2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
B	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CINEMA-2	PRINCESS DIARIES
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
CINEMA-3	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A.I.
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-6	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-7	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-8	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	A.I.
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	A.I.
CINEMA-12	CROCODILE 2
CINEMA-14	SHREK
CINEMA-15	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-3	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CINEMA-4	SHREK
CINEMA-5	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-6	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	NAKALIMOT SA PAG-IBIG
CINEMA-2	EVANGELINE KATORSE
CINEMA-4	OUTRAGE

PINK. One of the singers featured in "Soul Jams"

Jamming with soul, pop, R&B artists

FOLLOWING the success of MTV's Soul'd Out album comes the definitive pop/R&B compilation of the year, "Soul Jams," released by BMG Records Pilipinas.

The collection is packed with 18 of today's most soulful hits and brings together an eclectic mix of artists that range from hip-hop to pop and R&B in one album.

Featured are Christina Aguilera ("I Turn to You"), Koffee Brown ("After Party"), Toni Braxton ("Maybe"), Joy Enriquez ("Tell Me How You Feel"), O-Town ("Liquid Dreams"), Outkast ("Ms Jackson"), Pink ("Most Girls"), TLC ("I Miss You so Much"), LFO ("I Don't Wanna Kiss You Goodnight");

Another Level ("I Like the Way"), SWV ("Right Here"), Next ("Wifey"), Jacksoul ("I Know What You Want"), Carl Thomas ("Emotional"), Angie Stone ("No More Rain"), Faith Evans ("Never Gonna Let You Go"), Kevon Edmonds ("24/7") and PM Dawn ("Set Adrift on Memory Bliss").

The tracks in the album are certified hits that have been included in local and international radio singles charts.

Listen to Magic 89.9 and RX 93.1 and get a chance to win a cassette copy and a poster of the album which offers the best in today's urban music.

Newcomer promotes album

PRETTY singing sweetheart Bea Michelle continues to promote her self-titled album under Galaxy Records, by doing the rounds of malls in Metro Manila.

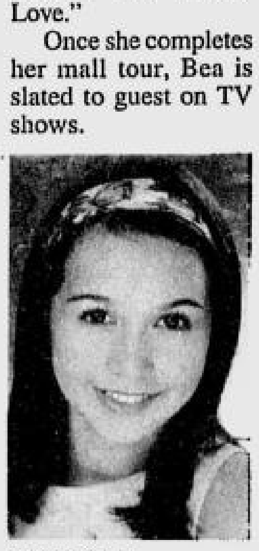
She performed in Cebu City and at SM North Edsa last weekend.

Bea's album contains 11 original songs composed and arranged by noted songwriters.

Carrier single is the romantic ditty, "Unang Pagkakataon," penned by Toto Florin and arranged by Francis Etorma. The song talks of first love and how it feels to be in love.

Other cuts include "Our Favorite Song," "Bakit Mahal Kita," Kailan Mo Sasabihin," "Dear Diary," "Hoy, Mr. Bolero" and "Puppy Love."

Once she completes her mall tour, Bea is slated to guest on TV shows.



MICHELLE

Show biz friends who are missed

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

FINDING a true friend in the make-believe world of show biz is no easy thing. Despite all your best intentions there will always be people who will get in the way. Professional rivalry can sometimes turn into personal battles.

More often than not, show biz folk ask you how you are and then turn their backS even before you can answer. It's so show biz, as industry people put it.

So much has been said about failed show biz marriages. What about show biz friendships that never even get a chance to flourish? Hectic schedules, overbearing managers, possessive fans, meddling *alalays* somehow ruin a friendship in the making.

My mom's friendship with **Nora Aunor** is my first memory of what a real friendship in show biz is. At the peak of the superstar's career, I would see her in my mom's room in the wee hours when I would be roused from sleep because of a bad dream.

My mom and *Ate* Guy were engrossed in solving problems about Nora's new lover, her next career move or family matters. Through the years they covered for each other.

It was heartwarming to see them both still so close to each other, last Friday at Hotel Rembrandt. The bond they have is very much intact. It brought to mind thoughts of my own friendships with people in the biz. I guess my birthday month makes me sentimental so please pardon the mushiness.

Instead of getting birthday gifts, I would rather reach out to some of my show biz friends whom I miss. Their friendship is an all-year-round birthday present. For some reason we have lost touch and through this column I would like to rekindle my friendship with them. That's my biggest birthday wish.

Pops Fernandez. Hi, Pipay! I know we get to text once in a while but I hope we get a chance to have those long girl talks we've always enjoyed. I get affected when I hear all the crazy stories about you. I know you too well so I don't believe any of them. You may have new friends now but I hope there will always be space in your life for me.

Jean Garcia. Hey, sister! Remember when you thought I was pregnant and *pinaglilihihan kita*? I'm happy to see you doing so well on TV. Hope you can make a personal appearance soonest. Let's reminisce about our "Snow White" days.

Louie Heredia. Hello, "neighbor." I have never forgotten all your well-meant advice. I miss our bible studies and marathon talks. Every time my cell phone conks out I remember you. What a lifesaver you are!

P.S. Will you lend me your cell phone free of charge again? Ha ha! I wish we still lived on the same street.

Bambi Fonacier (former DJ). *Hola, Bambino*! It's me, your No. 1 fan. Believe it or not, I still listen to tapes of your radio program ("Morning and Evening Odyssey") when the mood hits me. It brings back memories of happy and crazy times. Won't you consider going back to radio?

Why not buy your own radio station?

Andre Castillo (The Company) and **Rina Reyes.** Let's recapture our "Junior Newswatch" days soon! Can you imagine if we never grew old and "JN" was still on the air? How would we report about the Senate hearings in a wholesome way to our kiddie viewers?

April Stewart (my cohost on "Uncle Bob's Lucky 7 Club"). Hi, cosmic sister! We may have our differences but nothing can ever make me love you any less. You were always the first one to be there for me. I miss us!

Direk **Maryo J. de los Reyes.** Hello, Tokyo Love! We clicked instantly! I'm sure we haven't lost it. Please send some inspiration my way in time for my birthday.

Sharmaine Arnaiz. How can I ever forget the time we were both trying to comfort each other? Those were our Lonely Hearts Club days. We better get together soon and see where our overworked hearts are now. Hope your heart can't be any happier!

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

Mindave 'Battle of the Bands'

MINDAVE Entertainment Corp. holds its "Battle of the Bands" at Padi's Mindave Restaurant Bar in Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City.

All contestants should not have made any recording. Cash and other prizes will be given weekly, monthly and in the grand finals.

For registration, call 453-0080, 414-4930 to 34 or text 0917-8135916.

The unique 510-seater Padi's Mindave Restaurant Bar owned by writer Wilson Y. Lee Flores hopes to help discover and encourage new talents in music, literature, painting, sculpture and other arts.

The casual dining area on the ground floor has the Mindave Art Gallery, which has an ongoing exhibit of nude paintings by the nine-member Ikalawang Palapag Art Group.

Mindave Entertainment Corp. also presents the country's most popular band, Side A, in a special concert on Sept. 29.

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SHREK - GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	MOULIN ROUGE - P13 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - P13 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

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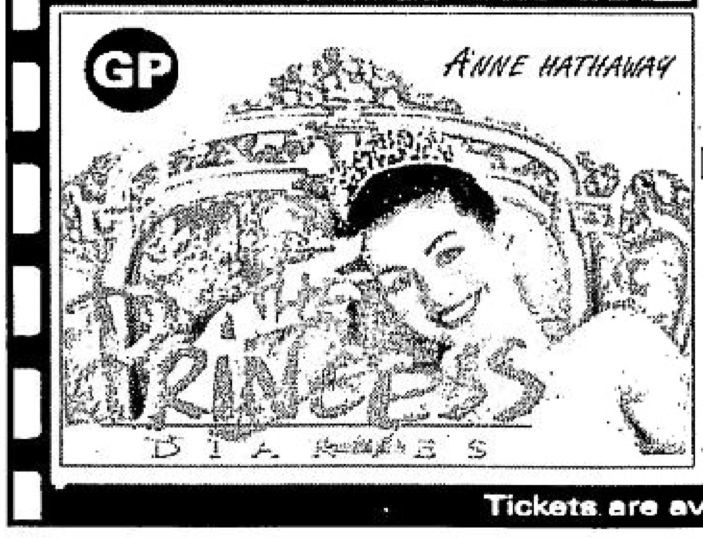
GP
ANNE HATHAWAY
PRINCESS DIARIES

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "PRETTY WOMAN" AND "RUNAWAY BRIDE" PRESENTS
THE PRINCESS DIARIES
REGULAR SCREENING BEGINS SEPT. 19
Tickets are available @ Movieworld

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ANNE HATHAWAY
JULIE ANDREWS
SNEAK PREVIEWS TODAY!
THE PRINCESS DIARIES

What would you do if you discovered you were royalty? ROCK, RULE AND REIGN!

From Garry Marshall, the director of "PRETTY WOMAN" and "RUNAWAY BRIDE", comes a girl-empowering, modern-day fairy tale transformation of an ordinary 15-year old teenager, Mia (winsome newcomer Anne Hathaway), into a graceful princess tasked to take over the reigns of a tiny European kingdom through the tutelage of her grandmother (Oscar®winner Julie Andrews of "The Sound of Music") who turns out to be the queen.

This family-friendly fun movie also stars pop singing sensation Mandy Moore in her first big screen performance and Hector Elizondo ("Pretty Woman") with soundtrack cuts from BBMak, Backstreet Boys, Aaron Carter, Hanson, Myra, 3Gs, Krystal Harris and many more. On SEPT. 19, troop to the cinemas and meet the newest member of the ruling class.

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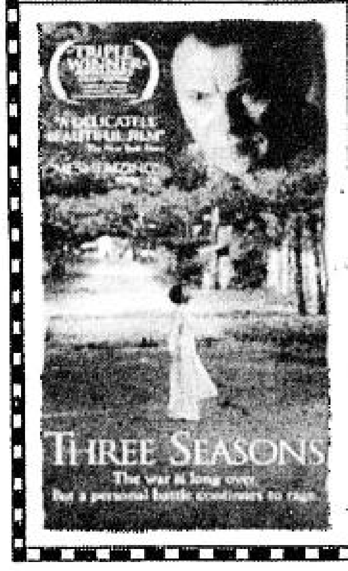
THREE SEASONS
The war is long over. But a personal battle continues to rage.

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THREE SEASONS

Starring: Harvey Keitel, Lola Ai Guimond, Don Duong & Nguyen Ngoc Hiep
Three Seasons tells three tangentially related stories: a romance between a forward-thinking prostitute and a cyclo driver; a street kid who loses his case of cheap trinkets; and a student of a reclusive teacher/poet who has lost his fingers to leprosy. Each of the stories is quite simple, but together they create a complex, layered experience of a country simultaneously caught up in its own past, present and future.

Vietnamese-American Bui's film has the distinction of being the first American production to shoot in Vietnam since the War.A cinematic poem that works more as a reflective mood piece than a traditional story, Bui's lyrical script and Rinzler's magical camera work combine to create an original, lasting motion picture.

Language: Vietnamese w/ English sub titles

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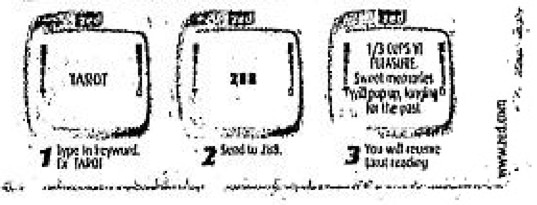
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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Michael Jackson marks 30th year with Brando, Taylor, other legends

NEW YORK—A who's who of the entertainment industry showed up Friday night to honor Michael Jackson and celebrate the 30th anniversary of his solo career.

The concert started nearly an hour late as Jackson, dressed in a white spangled jacket, was escorted to his seat with Elizabeth Taylor. Sitting next to him was Macaulay Culkin, and Jackson's parents, Katherine and Joseph.

The show got off to a rousing start with a dance-packed performance by Usher, Maya and Whitney Houston, doing "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'" from Jackson's 1980s megahit album, "Thriller."

But only moments later, it took a bizarre turn when Marlon Brando appeared onstage sitting on a couch. He rambled a couple minutes about child abuse, starvation and disease. People started to boo until Brando mentioned Jackson's name and said that Jackson was donating money to build a children's hospital in Florida.

"Michael doesn't do nothing small," said Rodney Jerkins, who produced much of Jackson's upcoming album, "Invincible."

The concerts Friday and Monday night are part of Jackson's attempt to reclaim his "king of pop" title after a six-year absence between albums.

"Invincible" is due out at the end of October. Last week, he released the first single, "You Rock My World."

On Thursday night, Jackson stole the show at the MTV Video Music Awards by appearing briefly onstage with 'N Sync.

Tickets for Jackson's show ranged from $45 to $2,500, and promoters said most sold within hours.

For those with $20,000 or more to spend, there was an after-hours party with Jackson. *AP*

Spotlight on legendary stars' distinguished careers

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN veteran film buffs get together and wax nostalgic and ecstatic over stars like **Lauren Bacall**, **Ingrid Bergman** and **Albert Finney**, young moviegoers feel like they're trapped in a time warp.

Lauren *who?!* Well, funny you should ask, but it's durable actresses like Ms Bacall who show up today's bubblegum and lollipop starlets for the pint-sized non-talents they are.

Bacall first got producers interested in her when she landed on the cover of Harper's Bazaar magazine in 1943. Warner Bros. got to her first with a juicy contract that got her a costarring role opposite *the* **Humphrey Bogart** in "To Have and Have Not" in 1944.

Moviegoers loved her classy sexiness and seductively husky "bedroom" voice. She did best when took.

As for her screen partnership with Bogart, it was popular with audiences and led to subsequent screen pairings in films like "The Big Sleep," "Dark Passage" and "Key Largo."

They found themselves so compatible that they got married, and were devoted to each other, unlike many Hollywood couples.

But Bogart died from cancer in 1957, and Bacall no longer felt like acting in films after that, so her film career came to a premature end, despite her continued popularity.

Bacall revived her performing career years later, but on the musical stage, with triumphant lead roles in "Applause" and "Cactus Flower." And, last year, she finally gave screen acting another go when she played **Barbara Streisand**'s mother in "The Prince of Tides."

Luaren Bacall is still remembered by mature film lovers despite her absence from the silver screen because her strong persona stamped all the roles she played with its unique combination of toughness and seductiveness.

On the other hand, Ingrid Bergman first captivated viewers with her ethereal beauty in compelling showcase vehicles like "Casablanca" and "Gaslight" (for which she won a best actress Oscar).

But the viewing public turned against her director in "Stromboli" (1950). The heretofore "saintly" Ingrid was scorned by her former fans, and she was forced to make films only in Europe for many years.

In 1956, "Anastasia" enabled her to make her comeback in Hollywood, and she was relieved to see that time *did* heal old wound. She won her second best actress Oscar for her performance in that British production.

Subsequently, she made a number of Hollywood films, but was eventually stricken with cancer, and died after coming up with one of her most luminous performances in "Autumn Sonata" in 1978. **Isabella Rossellini** is her daughter.

Finally, Albert Finney, last seen as **Julia Robert**'s temperamental boss in "Erin Brokovich," was a big star in his own right in the '60s.

He came on strong as an intense actor who typified the "angry young man" of his generation. Unknown to people who knew him only as a screen star, however, Finney had played a number of challenging Shakespearean roles before the movie world belatedly claimed him.

He first impressed moviegoers in "Sunday Night and Sunday Morning" (1960) and followed through with the rollicking "Tom Jones" in 1963. He both acted in and directed "Charlie Bubbles' in 1967 and was outstanding as the arrogant stage actor in "The Dresser" (1983). Another memorable Finney performance was his portrayal opposite **Audrey Hepburn** in "Two for the Road."

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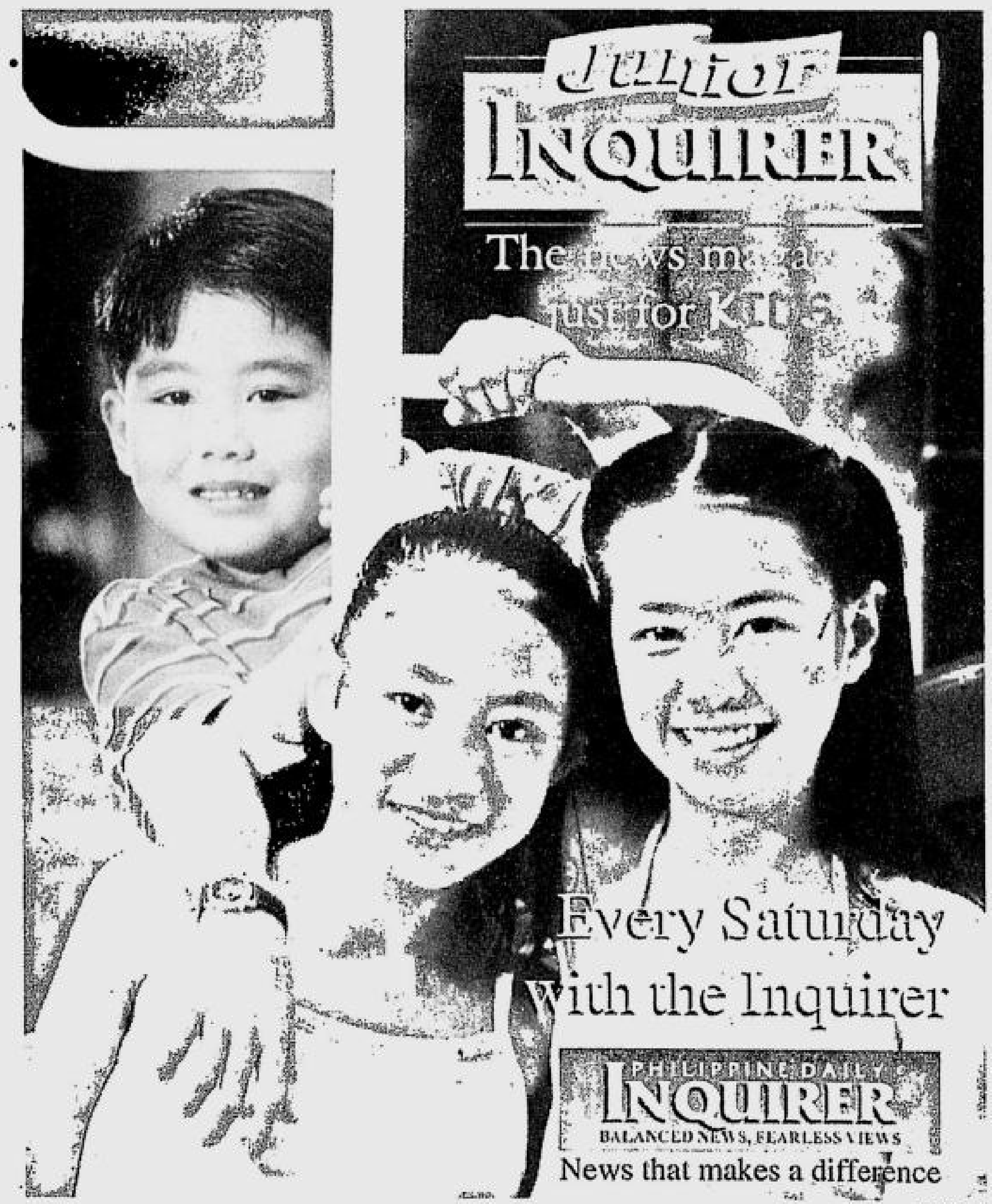
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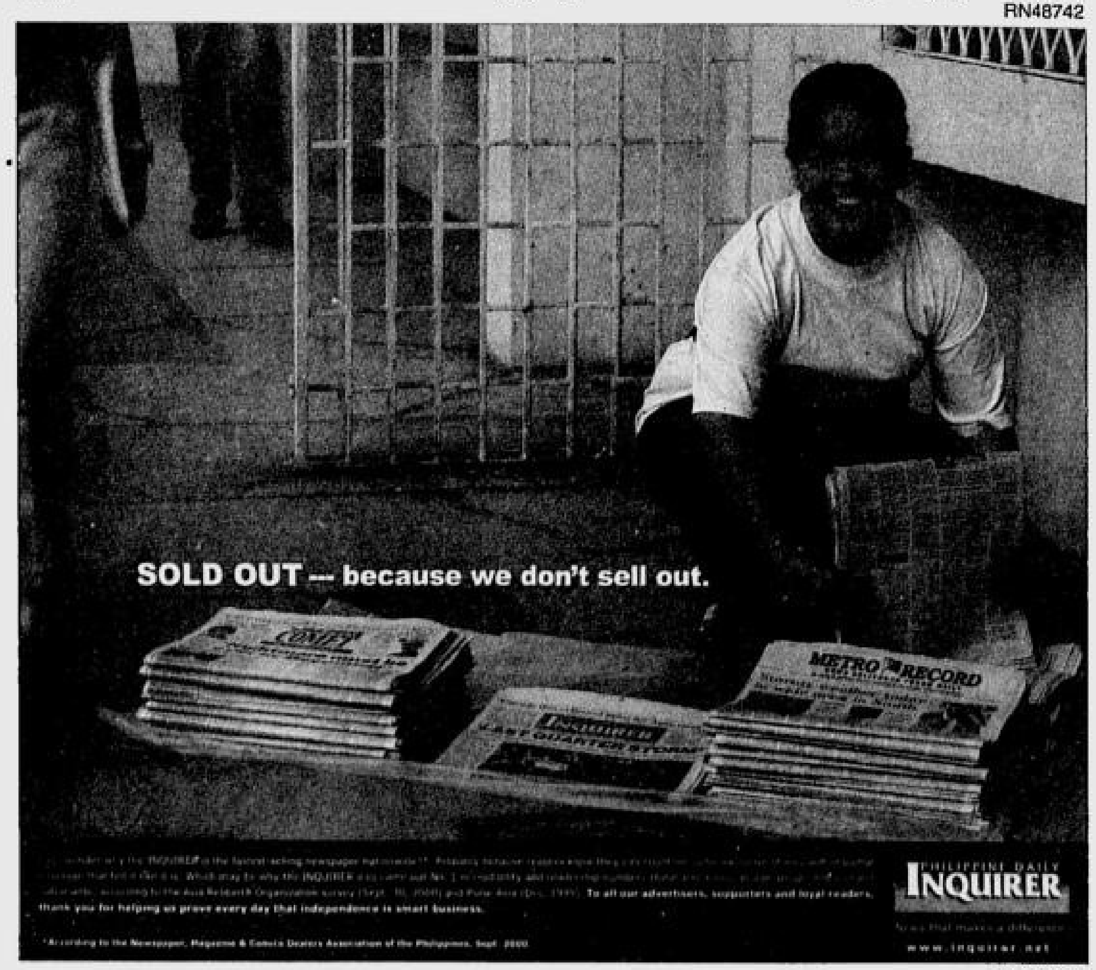
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T-bill rates fall across the board

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

TREASURY bill yields fell across the board yesterday, as the market took into account the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' promise to cut its key rates.

The benchmark 91-day T-bill rate slipped 6.7 basis points, or 6.7 hundredths of a percentage point, to 9.454 percent.

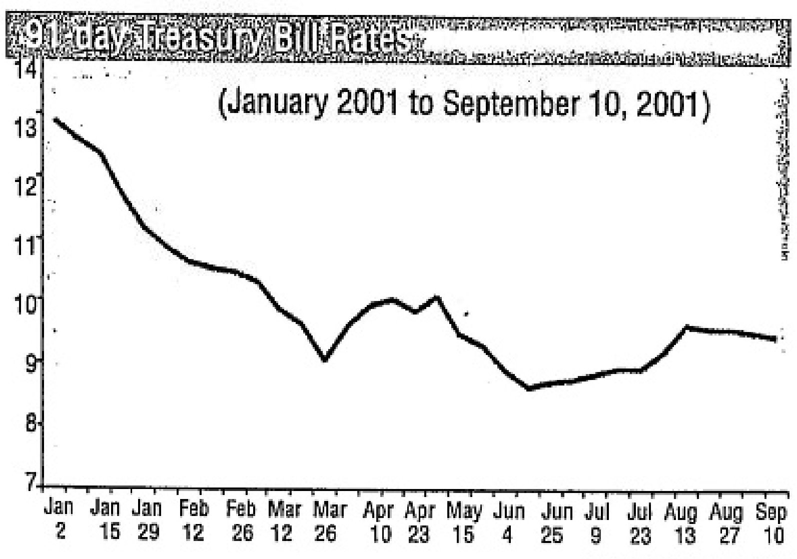
Yields of longer-dated instruments likewise slipped. The 182-day T-bill rate fell by 15.9 points to 11.803 percent, while the yield on the 364-day tenor slid by 6.7 points to 12.689 percent.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the lower rates reflected better growth numbers and lower inflation.

In jest, he denied that the yields were the market's gift to him on his birthday.

Edeza said the central bank's statement that it might slash its overnight rates ahead of the US Federal Reserve's projected cut next month lifted the market's spirits "tremendously."

The central bank said it was now evaluating whether the country could sustain a lower inflation rate.



SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

The August rate settled at a better-than-expected 6.3 percent from 6.8 percent in July.

Monetary officials said should the rate remain low, they would bring down their key rates.

Edeza said the latest US unemployment report appeared to support the view that a US economic recovery might not be forthcoming in the near term. This, he said, could force the US Federal Reserve to again cut its key rates by as much as half-a-percentage point.

Treasury bill yields track the movement of the central bank's overnight rates.

The 91-day tenor, meanwhile, is used by banks when pricing their loans.

The government borrows P4 billion from the private sector weekly through the auction of T-bills and another P3 billion from the sale of treasury bonds.

"The market should really correct (itself) because credit demand remains very slow. I don't see any upward bias because the market sentiment and economic fundamentals are pointing to lower rates," Edeza said.

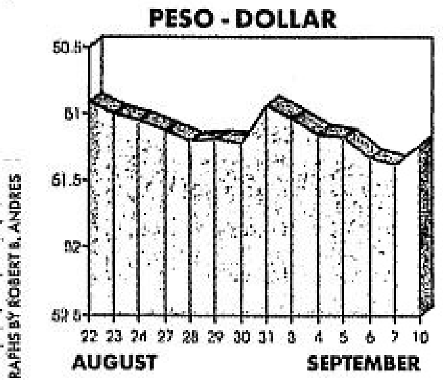
He said T-bill rates would continue to move downward in the coming weeks in anticipation of a US Fed rates cut, as well as a reduction in the local central bank's rates.

He said, however, that the market remained apprehensive, so any decline in rates would likely remain modest.

"The market is staying greedily cautious," Edeza said.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

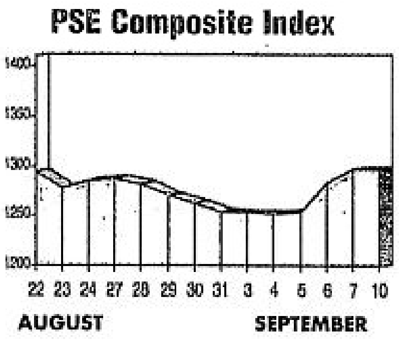
₱ 51.23 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Sept. 10, 2001

¥ 120.08 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Sept. 10, 2001

GOLD:$273.00/273.50
per ounce Hong Kong,
Sept. 10, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares end slightly lower



SHARES inched lower at the close of trading yesterday on concern over the latest US unemployment report, which appeared to support the view that a US economic recovery might not be forthcoming in the near term.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 0.16 point at 1,297.19, after gaining 1.1 percent on Friday. The index had risen 3.6 percent in the past three sessions. AP

(See stock market report on Page B2)

Vehicle sales down 11.7% in first 8 months

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

ALTHOUGH sales of passenger cars and light commercial vehicles continued to slide in the first eight months this year, assemblers remained confident that demand would rebound in the remaining months of the year.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. yesterday reported that industry sales fell 11.7 percent to 50,324 units from January to August this year from 57,014 units during the same period last year.

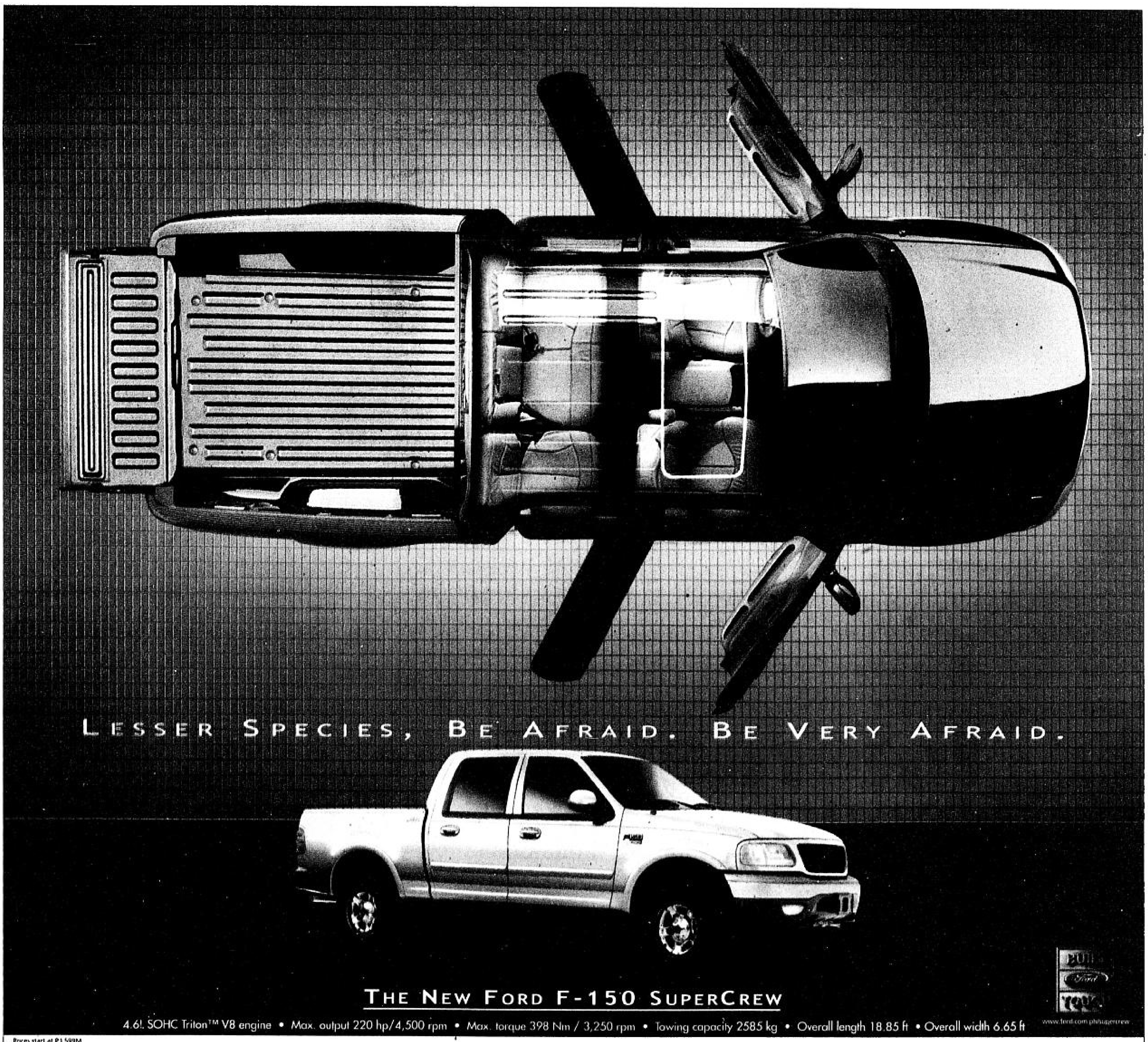
Sales of commercial vehicles, including Asian utility vehicles, fell 4.9 percent to 34,506 units in the first eight months this year from 36,278 units last year. Passenger car sales crashed 23.7 percent to 15,818 units from January to August this year from 20,736 units a year ago.

Despite the bleak performance of the industry, an official of Mitsubishi Motor Philippines Corp. said he remained optimistic that sales would rebound in the remaining four months this year and end the year at par with the 2000 results. Last year, industry sales rose to 83,949 units from 74,414 units in 1999.

The official said assemblers were mostly in a depletion mode up to July this year as they cleared inventory space before launching brand new models. The official said the broader market was likely to become more upbeat for the rest of the year with interest rates likely to remain low and most assemblers having shaken off their labor woes.

Toyota Motor Philippines Inc. remained on top with a 24.7-percent market share or 12,438 units sold in the first eight months this year. Mitsubishi was second with a 22-percent market share or 11,061 units sold. Honda Cars Philippines Inc. was third with a 13-percent share or 6,639 units sold. Isuzu Philippines Corp. was fourth with a 12.3-percent market share or 6,206 units. The Nissan motor group rounded up the top five with an 11.23-percent share or 5,656 units sold.

Except for Honda and Nissan, the top industry performers were powered by hefty demand for AUVs—Toyota Tamaraw Revo, Mitsubishi Adventure and Isuzu Hi-Lander.



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Box to the future

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

PLDT president Manuel Pangilinan is under attack from a congressman. He is none other than Rep. Aniceto Saludo Jr., reportedly a member of the "Gang of Five."

The honorable gentleman from the lone district of Southern Leyte even referred to Manny as "a certain something." You know—neither man nor beast!

Manny supposedly leads a "conspiracy" to smear Saludo's name. The conspiracy centers on reports that the Gang of Five took bribes from cellular phone companies.

Saludo called the reports a "smear campaign," and he became its victim only because of what he called "punitive retribution."

Translation: Manny only wanted to get back at him. But for what? I don't think Saludo stole Manny's marbles when they were kids or something.

* * *

IT'S because, Saludo claimed, he filed a resolution in the House of Representatives only last month. It called for an investigation of PLDT's purchase of GMA-Channel 7.

He said the Constitution prohibited any foreign interest to own media outfits. He said PLDT is owned by First Pacific, which, in turn, is owned by the Salim group of Indonesia.

"No less than six attempts had been made to convince me to buckle down and change my mind about the investigation against PLDT," Saludo said.

Never mind, boss, that even before Manny came into the picture, PLDT already had thousands of foreign stockholders. It is listed publicly in New York. Duh!

And so PLDT was that desperate to skirt the Constitution, huh? Imagine, it invented this wild story about a bribery, which was leaked to media also by congressmen.

Never mind, also, that the story should only boomerang on PLDT. Among the firms that supposedly paid up was Smart Communications Inc., Which also, it belongs to PLDT!

Let me see if I get this right. So PLDT is exacting vengeance upon a congressman by dragging its own company into a bribery scandal. Is that it? How stupid is this PLDT!

* * *

SALUDO, I think, is only trying to put up a bold defense. The best defense, as they say, is offense. So he must blame a "certain something" who happens to be Manny.

First of all, PLDT is not the buyer of GMA-7. The buyer is Mediaquest Holdings. For the sake of congressmen, Mediaquest is owned by the PLDT retirement trust fund.

The fund is a Filipino corporation. All of it is owned by the employees of PLDT, Salim or Talim or Karim has nothing to do with it. Clear?

Moreover, Mediaquest and GMA-7 are still negotiating. There is no agreement yet between them. What is there for the House to investigate? Well, a lot of nothing!

Thus, when Saludo called for an investigation, he was only shadowboxing. He had no real enemy. All his fears over the GMA-7 buyout were still way into the future.

Again let me see if I get this right. So PLDT wanted vengeance for the harm that was not yet done to it by a congressman who is boxing into the future. Is that it?

* * *

JUST when the Department of Trade and Industry is ready to give the local cement industry a little relief, the court issues an amazing injunction against it.

I am not kidding. Valenzuela Regional Trial Court Judge Floro Alejo prevented the DTI from doing its job. This, really, is what the injunction is all about.

Under the law, you see, it's the job of the DTI to say whether or not cement imports are already hurting the local makers. The law said the DTI—not the court in Valenzuela.

To top it all, the court seems to have made a little shortcut. The injunction came out even before the same court could issue a TRO.

So what in heaven's name was the basis for the injunction, which will definitely affect the lives of tens of thousands of people? Beats me, too!

* * *

EARLIER, local cement producers asked the DTI to impose higher tariff on imported cement. Imports were killing the locals. Out of 19 cement makers, 12 are losing heavily.

Here are the numbers—from only a little more than one percent of the local market, imported cement today accounts for more than 35 percent.

Word goes around that the DTI is going to decide in favor of the locals, and the decision is coming out this week! What great timing for the court!

In effect, the DTI wants importers of cement to cough up a little of their profits by paying a higher tariff. It can make importation a little less attractive.

Importers buy cement abroad at a dumping price of P86 per bag. They sell it here at P135 to P150 per bag. They have made hundreds of millions of pesos.

* * *

NO wonder, the rich importers are getting a little help from a congressman who walks, talks and looks like Rep. Jose Salceda, the right-hand man of Speaker Yoda Venecia.

Salceda is the same congressman who asked Neda to correct itself on the cement industry. Neda already ruled last year there was no cement cartel.

The cartel issue, as if by coincidence, is also the same issue thrown by the rich importers at the locals. All right, it may not be a coincidence. My mistake.

Quoting Salceda, anyway, reports said the House trade and industry committee already had a consensus on the cement issue. And that is, imports do no injury to locals.

The message here is clear: This stupid DTI better not come out with a decision to impose higher tariff simply because there is no reason for the DTI to do so.

It turned out that Salceda was imagining things. No, Bruno, the committee did not have any consensus. Its members said they were still conducting hearings, forgodsakes.

In short, *buking*! When the Salceda initiative fizzled out, what should come out but a hurried court injunction that only took a little shortcut. So there!

G & W clubshares
SEC License Broker No.: A-200017597
As of September 7, 2001

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A"	1,600,000	1,750,000
Alabang Country Club "B"	Best Offer	-
Baguio Country Club	700,000	-
Camp John Hay	300,000	350,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC	120,000	160,000
Canyon Woods	-	350,000
Calatagan	100,000	160,000
Canlubang	700,000	Best Bid
Celebrity Sports	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Club Filipino "A"	-	Best Bid
Eagleridge "A"	300,000	400,000
Eastridge	-	220,000
Evercrest golf club "A"	Pls. Call	150,000
Forest Hills "A"	190,000	240,000
Fontana "D"	Pls. Call	90,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	450,000
Manila Polo	-	3,200,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	700,000	-
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	870,000
Metropolitan	-	Best Bid
Mt. Malarayat "A"	280,000	360,000
Orchard	-	Pls. Call
Phil. Columbian	70,000	90,000
Puerto Azul	-	Best Bid
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	240,000
Riviera Golf	200,000	250,000
Rockwell	-	570,000
Sherwoods	190,000	250,000
Subic Bay Yatch Club	-	300,000
Tagaytay Country Club	390,000	425,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	-	950,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	Best Bid
Valle Verde "C"	-	Best Bid
Wack-Wack	-	7,800,000

PLAYING RIGHTS AVAILABLE

Sarah V. Samson
Trading Manager
Emelle C. Balahadia & Joy A. Vivas
Tel. No. 6359918/6359725/6359830/(0919)7041848
Mon. - Fri., 9:00 am - 6:00 pm Sat., 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Unit 1402 Medical Plaza Ortigas, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

COUNTRY SHARES
AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A	-	1.75M
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	725,000	800,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	100,000/105,000 *
CAMP JOHN HAY	320,000	325,000
CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	135,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	210,000	215,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	350,000/020,000 **	400,000/450,000*/700,000 **
EASTRIDGE A	-	200,000
EVERCREST A/B*	-	150,000/170,000 *
FONTANA D/C*/B**	98,000/120,000 *	90,000/150,000*/250,000 **
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	-	240,000/350,000*/450,000 **
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	500,000	Please call or swap
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	-	300,000/400,000 *
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	3,575,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	700,000	750,000/850,000 *
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	175,000/180,000 *
MIMOSA IND/CORP.*	350,000 *	240,000/375,000 *
MT. MALARAYAT A/C* (w/lot)**	-	400,000/550,000*/2.0M **
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	600,000 **	250,000/425,000 *
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	150,000	170,000/Please call *
RIVIERA A/B*	-	230,000/400,000 *
ROCKWELL CLUB	500,000	600,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	100,000	120,000/150,000 *
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	250,000/350,000*/450,000 **
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	1,700,000	1,825,000
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP*	400,000 *	300,000/450,000 *
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	320,000	350,000/550,000 *
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF*	-	400,000/950,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	760,000	900,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	185,000	190,000
VALLEY GOLF	250,000	280,000
WACK WACK	7.0M	7.5M

Available Lessors for Playing Rights: Alabang, Calatagan, Camp John Hay, Canlubang, Canyon Woods, Celebrity, Eagleridge, Eastridge, Forest Hills, Makati Sports, Malarayat, Orchard, Riviera, Sta. Elena, Southwoods, Tagaytay H-lands & Midlands, Valley Golf, Wack Wack, Rockwell & Others
Selling: Villas, Belleview, Pinecrest & Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands
Lots: Eagleridge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay & Southwoods
Buying: Orchard Lot Phase 7
Please Call Tel. Nos. 853-1626 or 853-1627; Globe 0917-5361722 or 0917-6140656

GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2001

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,800,000	
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	2,000,000	1,600,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000	700,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	850,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	135,000	125,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	200,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS		380,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	250,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	400,000	350,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	140,000	100,000
14. FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
17. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	400,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	350,000	
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	450,000	
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	14,500,000	
21. MANILA POLO CLUB	3,300,000	
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	750,000	700,000
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	900,000	800,000
24. MANILA YACHT CLUB	650,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	160,000	
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	170,000	150,000
27. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	400,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	240,000
29. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	400,000	
30. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	550,000	
31. PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	150,000	140,000
32. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	200,000
33. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	
34. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	350,000	
35. ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls. Call	
36. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,900,000	1,800,000
37. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	300,000	
38. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	900,000	850,000
39. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	
40. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	195,000	175,000
41. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	265,000	
42. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	8,000,000	

ASSIGNMENT OF PLAYING RIGHTS PLS. CALL

JUST S. VIRAY
TRADING MANAGER
LALA SALAO / LYDIA HASEGAWA / FINAS VIRAY
TEL. NOS. 8175655 / 8121066 / 8193560
7517982 CP#0917-8114892

CURRENCIES

Sept. 10, 2001 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.102171	1.000000	51.3450
Japan	Yen	0.009177	0.008326	0.4275
United Kingdom	Pound	1.611044	1.461700	75.0510
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.141315	0.128215	6.5832
Switzerland	Franc	0.658760	0.597693	30.6885
Canada	Dollar	0.703858	0.638610	32.7894
Singapore	Dollar	0.631255	0.572738	29.4072
Australia	Dollar	0.571577	0.518592	28.6271
Bahrain	Dinar	2.923687	2.652661	136.2009
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.293881	0.266638	13.6905
Brunei	Dollar	0.628197	0.569963	29.2648
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000121	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024740	0.022447	1.1525
UAE	Dirham	0.300155	0.272331	13.9828
Korea	Won	0.000861	0.000781	0.0401
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.907300	46.5853
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.463895	23.8187
France	Franc	0.152450	0.138317	7.1019
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.411715	21.1395
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065936	3.3855
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022491	1.1548
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000469	0.0241
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.152597	7.8351
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004526	0.2324
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005453	0.2800
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022491	1.1548
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.152033	59.1511

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, Sept. 10, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59	60	59	60	124,000
China Banking Corp.	610	610	610	610	130
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28	30	28	29.5	147,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	209	209	207	208	71,010
Philippine National Bank	53	53.5	53	53.5	10,200
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	29	28.5	29	9,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.25	22.25	22.25	22.25	600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	60,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1390	1400	1390	1400	3,270
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1130	1130	1090	1125	10,540
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	32	32	32	3,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	360,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	8,000
Piltel	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	545	545	535	540	64,740
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.029	0.03	0.029	0.03	17,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	31.5	32	31	31.5	446,200
Manila Electric Co. B	45.5	48	45.5	48	858,400
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.74	470,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	76,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	5,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.4	62,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	4,000,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	37,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	244,600
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26	26	26	26	12,800
Pure Foods Corp. A	78	78	78	78	300
RFM Corp.	2.2	2.24	2.2	2.22	230,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41	41	40.5	40.5	34,000
San Miguel Corp. B	55	55	55	55	57,700
Universal Robina Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	20,000
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.5	2,526,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.56	1.56	1.54	1.56	205,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.83	0.85	0.83	0.85	800,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	250,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.2	100,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.5	1.52	1.48	1.48	3,441,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	570,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	140,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	29.5	29.5	29	29	48,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.22	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	270,000
Ionics Inc.	10	10	10	10	71,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	900,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.69	0.7	0.68	0.7	720,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.35	13,290,000
Music Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	274,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	50,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	60,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.21	0.29	0.21	0.29	60,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.5	85,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	220,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	180,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.5	30,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	150,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	580,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	32	32.5	32	32.5	94,300
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	11,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	14,300,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.9	4.95	4.85	4.9	39,939,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	150,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	6,770,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	190,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.96	1.98	1.96	1.98	723,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	10,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	2,400,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	3,102,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	10,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.037	0.038	0.037	0.038	11,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	40,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	7,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	200,000
Interport Res.	0.0044	0.0046	0.0044	0.0046	20,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	14,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	130,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	437,250	43,564,210.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	325,595,640	142,182,600.00
PRO	53,294,000	219,503,070.00
Mining	28,240,000	522,600.00
OIL	34,530,000	175,150.00
GRAND TOTALS:	442,106,890	405,978,380.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	522.45	UP 6.64
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,812.96	DOWN 5.55
PRO	515.80	UP 3.65
Mining	1,173.39	DOWN 3.67
OIL	1.45	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	746.82	DOWN 14.23
Composite	1,297.19	DOWN 0.16

NO. OF ADVANCES: 26; NO. OF DECLINES: 29; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 93; NO. OF TRADES: 1,671

DISCLOSURES

IPEOPLE Inc. has removed from its articles of incorporation its secondary purpose provisions pertaining to upstream and downstream businesses. Its class "A" shares were also reclassified into class "B" common shares.

* * *

MONDRAGON International Philippines Inc. has moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Sept. 10 to March 18, 9 a.m., at the Mondragon House ballroom in Makati.

* * *

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has denied obtaining a $150-million bridge financing facility from **HSBC Corp.**

* * *

ALASKA Milk Corp. has bought 20,000 of its shares at P2.02 each. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

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Seminar duration is approximately 1 hour 30 minutes long.

Manila
Dates & Times:
Thursday, Sept 13, at 7:00 pm
Fri, Sept 14, at 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm
Sat, Sept 15 at 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm
Sunday, Sept 16 at 12:00 noon
Location: Hyatt Regency, 2702 Roxas Blvd. Pasay City P.O. Box 2462 Manila, Luzon Island
Tel: 63-2-8331234

Manila
Dates & Times:
Sun, Sept 16, at 7:00 pm
Mon, Sept 17, at 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm
Tues, Sept 18, at 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm
Location: Shangri-la Makati, Ayala Ave/Makati Ave, Makati City, Metro Manila
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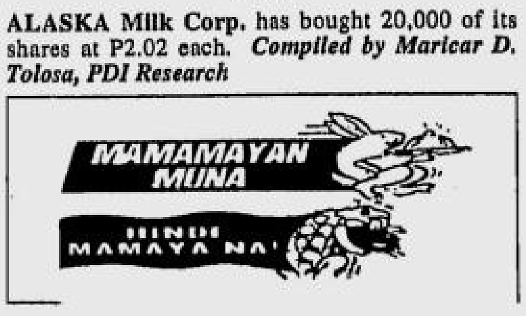

Smith Bell, 3 others eye inspection deal

By Clarissa S. Batino

AT LEAST four firms are jockeying for position to become the country's new pre-shipment customs inspector, with Filipino firm Smith Bell & Co. being the latest to join the fray.

Smith Bell & Co., a 100-percent Filipino firm, was established in 1846 as a trading company that has since diversified into other businesses such as insurance, financing, shipping, petroleum and petrochemical surveys.

The firm's proposal centered on its plan to help the Bureau of Customs conduct imports inspection without any cost to the government.

This was in reaction to an earlier pronouncement from Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho who said that the private sector would have to shoulder the cost of import inspection should the government decide to hire an imports checker.

Business groups like the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry supported the plan to get the private sector to foot the bill for import inspection.

"We are pleased that the model we have been developing appears to be consistent with the DoF's earlier announcement of a criterion that advocates the private sector shouldering the pre-shipment obligations," Smith lawyer Romeo Lasam said in a statement.

Smith Bell claimed that it was the sole survey and claims settling agent of Lloyd's of London in the Philippines. It was also said to have a worldwide presence and employs a global network of over 900 principal and sub-agencies of Lloyd's of London.

Aside from Smith Bell, Camacho said he has received three other proposals and has asked a DoF team to evaluate the feasibility of hiring a new pre-shipment inspector.

One of these proposals came from Swiss-based Societe General de Surveillance, the country's former pre-shipment inspector whose contract had ended in December 1999 and extended to March 2000.

The BoC has since taken over the pre-shipment inspection of imports.

The government paid for the services of the Swiss firm during the 12 years that SGS handled the pre-shipment inspection for the Bureau of Customs,

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FILIPINO REPORT CARD

Lessons drawn from fight against poverty

By Dennis M. Arroyo

(Second of a series)

THE WORLD Bank's survey from March 26 to April 17 last year pointed the way to reforms in fighting poverty. Here are some reflections that arise from reading the "Filipino Report Card."

- **Disseminate information more aggressively.** There was little public awareness on the national health insurance program, and lack of information deprived the poor of access to public housing. Only the Pag-IBIG Fund advertised its programs.

The report card showed that the two most popular sources of information on government programs were television (cited by 47 percent of all households) and radio (32 percent), exceeding friends and relatives (35 percent).

- **Extend program reach.** Government housing programs were very limited, offering the lowest access among the basic services. Public spending on housing accounted for only 0.5 percent of the national budget, far below that of other middle-income countries. It must be increased.

Water supply was a striking case as well. Two out of five Filipinos had to find ways to get their own water. "Level III" service, or water piped directly to homes, was unable to meet consumer demand, yet two-thirds of those without home-piped water wanted that service.

- **Ensure that the poor are included in some public services.** A mere one-fourth of the poor got access to home-piped water, forcing many of them to use water from springs, wells and communal faucets. This greatly limited their consumption. While the poor were more likely to get sick, a larger ratio of the "non-poor" turned to health facilities. A fifth of poor households that used private health facilities did not have access to any government facility, and only a fifth of housing beneficiaries came from the poor.

- **Redress the neglect of rural residents.** The report card revealed the great dissatisfaction of the rural poor with their housing. It seems that housing services were viewed as part of urban development, so the government ended up neglecting the rural population. Rural households were much less likely to get a home-piped water connection than their urban counterparts. Fully 40 percent of rural households reported that the nearest National Food Authority store was more than an hour away. The health facilities that won the "Sentrong Sigla" seal of quality drive tended to come from urban areas.

- **Mindanao needs urgent attention.** Mindanao lagged far behind in the fight against poverty. The ratio of people who bought NFA rice was lowest in Mindanao. The region held the highest ratio of households for whom no NFA rice was available. Among those who bought NFA rice in Mindanao, 46 percent said the stores were more than an hour away from their homes. Access to home-piped water service lagged the most there, and a third had to provide for their own water. The report card further revealed a special need to improve health centers in Mindanao.

- **Confront the general lack of quality in public services.** Among the most striking findings was that water supplied by all formal sources was considered unsafe for drinking. The housing assistance program was saddled with high client rejection. Public elementary schools offered inexpensive but inferior education. Public school class size, textbooks and facilities were rated poorly.

The people saw lack of quality as the main problem in Philippine health care. Public hospitals were considered inferior to private hospitals as regard skills of staff, facilities, medical equipment and waiting time. Public health facilities were graded as inferior to private health facilities in 14 out of 17 aspects of service. Primary health facilities were noted for low quality, so they were frequently bypassed.

- **Upgrade the services most needed by the poor.** The poor usually patronized low-quality services. The primary health facilities, in particular, were mostly used by the poor. They can become more pro-poor if they raised the quality of the services that the poor demand. These services included minor illnesses and accidents, treatment for communicable diseases, maternal and child health. There is a need to train frontline workers of health centers. It would help to grant incentives to local governments to upgrade primary health facilities.

Extending home-piped water to more poor families would raise their consumption of water and quality of life.

Upgrading public schools is a major welfare intervention, as nine out of 10 families enrolled their children there. Class size must be cut, more textbooks must be printed, and more facilities must be repaired. Subsidized NFA rice is known to be of inferior taste, color and smell. It need not be poor in other aspects of quality for it may be nutritionally enhanced.

- **Attend to the vulnerability of the poor.** The poor bought expensive water from vendors, so they consumed little of it and they hardly treated it. As such, they were threatened by disease. The poor were very dissatisfied with their housing because of the unsanitary environment and insecurity from the weather.

Another major source of vulnerability was insecurity of tenure. Residential land ownership was much less common than house ownership, and the poor bore the lowest ratios for owning residential land.

All these forms of vulnerability should be resolved. **(*To be continued*)**

MOST households still lack access to basic water services.

Court bars DTI from fixing tariff rate hikes and quotas on imports

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MACAPAGAL administration has been barred from implementing further the Safeguard Measures Act after a local court ruled that it was unconstitutional for Cabinet secretaries to usurp the power of taxation reserved only for the President.

In a ruling issued September 4, Valenzuela regional trial court judge Floro P. Alejo imposed a preliminary injunction against the Department of Trade and Industry.

This stopped the agency from deciding on separation petitions by the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. and Ceramic Tile Manufacturers Association to impose punitive duties and quantitative restrictions on competing imports under Republic Act 8800 or the Safeguard Measures Act.

Alejo ruled in favor of the trading firms of cement, tiles and steel and the Consumers Union of the Philippines.

These groups claimed in their petition that Congress abused its discretion when it delegated its power to fix tariff rate hikes and to impose import and export quotas to protect domestic industries from serious injury to the secretaries of Trade and Industry (for manufactured goods) and Agriculture (for agriculture products).

The court opined that Congress could delegate its power of taxation only to the President and not to the trade secretary or agriculture secretary as mandated in the Safeguard Law.

The court said the sole object of the preliminary objection was to maintain the status quo until the courts have ruled on whether there was a constitutional flaw in the enactment of RA 8800.

"Given the seriousness of the challenge posed against the unconstitutionality of the RA 8800, the petitioners have the right not to be subjected to punitive monetary sanctions and other forms of restraint of trade while the issue is pending resolution," Alejo said in his eight-page decision.

Alejo junked the respondents' claim that a ruling against the constitutionality of RA 8800 would breach the doctrine of separation between the powers of states.

"The principal point raised by the petitioners is not the wisdom and motive in enacting the law but the infringement of the Constitution which is a proper subject of judicial enquiry," Alejo said.

With the preliminary injunction, the DTI would have to shelve its pending review of Philcemcor and CTMA's petitions against competing imports. The two cases were the first to be filed under the Safeguard Act that was enacted last year.

RFM ready to sign deal with SMC despite case

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp. will push through with the signing this month of the P15-billion share purchase agreement with San Miguel Corp. for soft drinks unit Cosmos Bottling Corp. despite the ongoing legal battle with Iloilo congressman Augusto Syjuco Jr.

In a press briefing yesterday, RFM EVP and COO Felicisimo Nacino Jr. said San Miguel's due diligence audit was now 70-percent complete and on track for the Sept. 15 target for the signing of the share purchase deal.

Nacino said Syjuco's case would not affect the transaction because the injunction filed by the solon covered only the sale of Cosmos assets to San Miguel.

"Remember that we are not selling any asset to SMC. We are selling Cosmos shares to SMC, so the case will not affect the signing of the share purchase agreement," Nacino said.

Nacino added that the group ruled out any possible out-of-court cash settlement with Syjuco and was instead considering to file a libel suit against the solon for issuing "irresponsible" and "false statements" against RFM.

Syjuco earlier filed a petition with the Quezon City Regional Trial Court to rescind a memorandum of agreement on the sale of Jaz Cola Philippines to Cosmos dated Nov. 8, 1996.

Syjuco, who sat as chair of Jaz Cola, claimed that Cosmos had "unjustly and deliberately failed" to pay a balance of P146.58 million to Jaz shareholders.

The solon also claimed that Cosmos, through Cosmos president Jose Ma. Concepcion III and father Jose Concepcion Jr., had participated in a grand scheme to evade paying taxes that should have been paid on behalf of the sellers in line with the purchase agreement.

Jaz Cola, which operates in the Visayas region, was included among the Cosmos brands and businesses covered by the deal being hatched with SMC.

RFM has refuted Syjuco's charges, noting that Cosmos has even overpaid the solon by P9.8 million and that it had settled all tax liabilities from the sale.

Nacino also explained that Syjuco's case should not affect the P15-billion deal with SMC as the Jaz Cola brand and the RC cola franchise accounted for only 11 percent of total Cosmos sales and 8 percent of total income.

He also said that Congress' committee on ethics should probe Syjuco for using his clout as a solon to hit legitimate businesses like RFM and Cosmos.

"Syjuco's use of PR/media blitz on giving false claims about RFM/Cosmos bankruptcy, irresponsible statements urging freefall of prices and wild accusations of insider trading and stock manipulation could scare away Filipino and foreign investors. It's an abuse of Philippine judicial and legislative systems," Nacino said.

SMC has agreed to buy 100 percent of Cosmos for P15 billion, of which RFM owns 82.3 percent of Cosmos.

The sale of Cosmos to SMC would give the latter a 90-percent market share in the local soft drink industry.

Interport eyes partners for Rizal land

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

INTERPORT Resources Corp. has tapped PentaCapital Investment Corp. to hunt for real estate developers and financiers to bankroll the development of a quarter of its 2,000-hectare property in Rizal province.

PentaCapital said it would need between P3 billion and P4 billion to develop Interport's 500-hectare lot into townships and middle-income housing subdivisions.

The project, which was adjacent to the East Ridge Golf and Residential Estates, would have a masterplan by Palafox Associates.

The investment bank managed by Jovencio Cinco claimed that several local property developers have expressed keen interest in participating in the project.

PentaCapital was confident that it would finally push through with Interport's delayed property development project as the company's shareholders have agreed to be mere landowners and not partners or co-developers in the project.

The Rizal property has long been planned for development since the mid-1990s but these project plans have been put off by Interport because of corporate disputes and controversies, the collapse of the real estate and stock market, rising debt and numerous changes in ownership and management.

Interport president Felipe B. Sese and the firm's major stockholders—Prime East Properties Inc. and Mabuhay Holdings Corp.—have signed a memorandum of understanding with PentaCapital for the development of 500 hectares out of its 2,000-hectare straddling Angono and Binangonan, Rizal.

PentaCapital is currently drawing up plans to undertake a pre-emptive rights offering for the company in order to raise P400 million for the company's working capital requirements.

INQUIRER MONITOR

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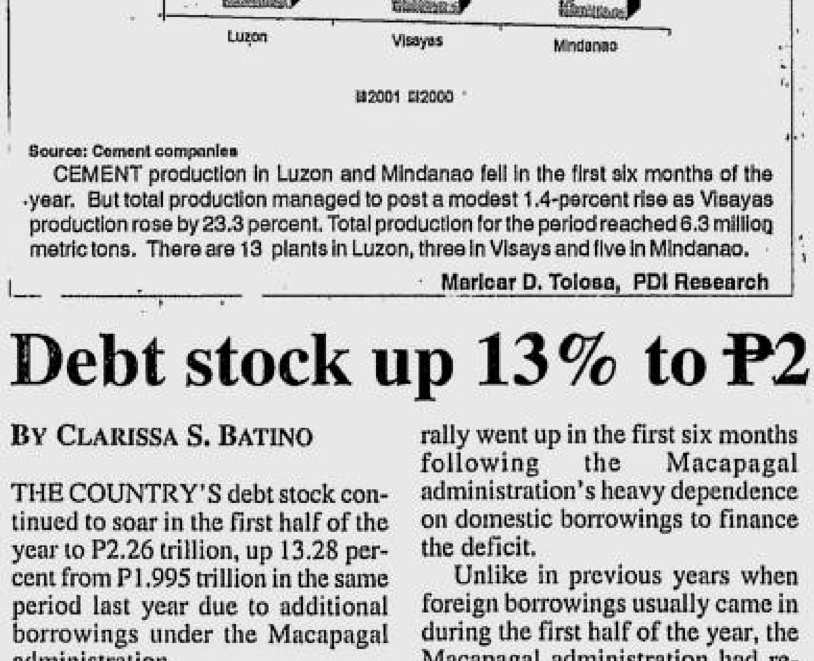
RP cement production

(January to June 2000 and 2001, in metric tons)



Source: Cement companies

CEMENT production in Luzon and Mindanao fell in the first six months of the year. But total production managed to post a modest 1.4-percent rise as Visayas production rose by 23.3 percent. Total production for the period reached 6.3 million metric tons. There are 13 plants in Luzon, three in Visays and five in Mindanao.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Debt stock up 13% to ₱2.3T in first six months

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S debt stock continued to soar in the first half of the year to P2.26 trillion, up 13.28 percent from P1.995 trillion in the same period last year due to additional borrowings under the Macapagal administration.

Data from the Bureau of Treasury showed that the total national government debt went up by P21 billion or 0.94 percent from the end-May level of P2.239 trillion.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza explained that the debt stock naturally went up in the first six months following the Macapagal administration's heavy dependence on domestic borrowings to finance the deficit.

Unlike in previous years when foreign borrowings usually came in during the first half of the year, the Macapagal administration had relied solely on local sources in the first semester to take advantage of declining interest rates.

The government borrows about P7 billion a week from the private sector by issuing Treasury bills and bonds.

T-bill rates, particularly the benchmark 91-day rate, continued to trade at single-digit levels, allowing government a cheaper access to funds.

Local debts amounted to P1.14 trillion while foreign debts stood at P1.12 trillion. It was only in June when the government started borrowing from foreign sources.

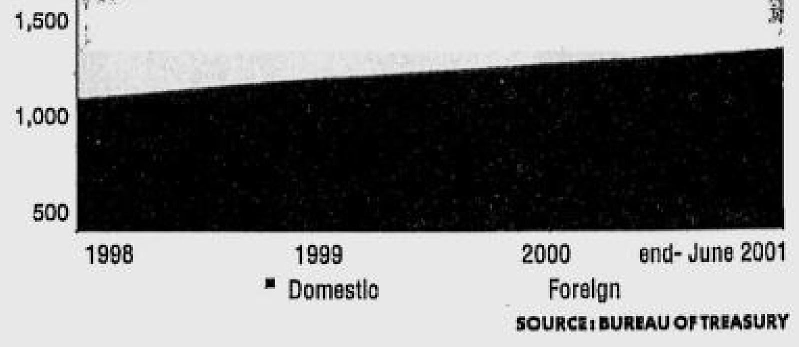
The debt stock released by the Treasury included only the government's local and foreign borrowings. It does not include the liabilities of the private sector unlike the debt stock statistics from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

At this level, every Filipino including newborn babies owes the government's creditors P29,580 each, up by almost P4,000 each from its level a year ago.

Edeza said 20.6 percent of the total debt stock were short-term in nature or would mature within one year. The bulk, or 62.7 percent, were long-term debts while 16.7 percent were medium-term.

Of the total foreign debt, 58.6 percent were in US dollars, 34.5 percent in Japanese yen, and the rest were in other currencies.

Outstanding Public Debt



SOURCE: BUREAU OF TREASURY

China seeks foreign capital with WTO bid

STOCK CRACKDOWN AP

A GENERAL view of the Shanghai Stock Exchange in this Aug. 17, 2001 file photo. The China Securities Regulatory Commission, in its widening crackdown on share price manipulation and false disclosure, announced over the weekend new penalties for several firms and brokerages.

BEIJING—China has issued a flurry of new policy pronouncements aimed at integrating itself into the global economy and attracting investment ahead of entry into the World Trade Organization this year, state press reported Monday.

Among the possible new measures could be rules allowing foreign investors to completely buy out some state-run firms.

At an international investment fair in Xiamen, Fujian province over the weekend, Vice Premier Wu Bangguo said China's entry into the WTO would "soon become reality" but reiterated this must underscore China's modernization drive, the China Daily said.

"The encouragement of foreign investment should be integrated with economic restructuring, industrial upgrading and optimization, as well as improvement of corporate efficiency," Wu was quoted as saying in the southern city.

"During the course of these changes, it is imperative to absorb overseas capital."

Also at the investment fair, a senior official from the State Economic and Trade Commission said China was drawing up regulations that would allow foreign investors to buy and control small and medium-sized state-run businesses.

The announcement was made by Xu Ming, deputy director of SETC's Department of Foreign Economic Coordination, the Xinhua news agency said.

If the measure is implemented, it could open the floodgates for international financiers whose slice of the lucrative Chinese market has so far been limited to joint ventures and solely owned foreign funded enterprises.

China was also planning to allow foreign companies to list on its fast-growing stock markets as it pushed ahead with efforts to join the global trading body, Japan's Nihon Keizi Shimbum newspaper said on Sunday.

The Chinese government would initially accommodate only the stocks of foreign-owned subsidiaries operating locally, said the paper, which cited copies of the pending guidelines.

The rush of pronouncements came as China's top WTO negotiator, Long Yongtu, prepared to meet WTO officials on Wednesday in Geneva and hand over the texts of 36 bilateral accession accords

Beijing has struck with different WTO member countries.

This week's talks will be pivotal to whether China can successfully wind up its marathon 15-year effort to join the global trading body this November when world trade ministers meet in Qatar.

US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said in a speech in Beijing Monday that China's strong economic growth this year showed it had been "little affected by the slowing of the rest of the world."

China's GDP is forecast by the International Monetary Fund to grow 7.5 percent this year.

But O'Neill urged China to continue with progress in privatization, banking reforms, accession to the WTO and fiscal reforms. *AFP*

Poll shows economy, not politics, main worry of Asian executives

SINGAPORE—The economic slowdown, rather than political conflicts or religious extremism, is regarded as the main threat to regional security by Asian policymakers and analysts, survey results showed Monday.

A total of 100 government officials, regional security experts and political and economic analysts were polled by Singapore's leading daily, The Straits Times, in 10 Asian countries.

Nearly 54 percent said the economically weak state of the region had the most potential to make it vulnerable.

On specific threats, 28 percent said the economic slowdown was the main threat to regional security, followed in descending order by polarization with China, social instability, military build-up, religious extremism, terrorism and external factors.

"The economic downturn has a direct effect on the deterioration of peace and internal stability," Roilo Golez, national security adviser to Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, told the newspaper.

South Asia was seen by 61.3 percent of respondents as the sub-region where they would felt most insecure, followed by Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia.

Asia-Pacific economies have entered another rough patch due to a global slowdown after a brief rebound from the 1997 regional financial crisis. *AFP*

US Treasury secretary rejects suggestions of weaker dollar

BEIJING—US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill on Monday rejected suggestions that Washington should weaken the dollar to boost exports.

Speaking to students at Beijing's University of International Business and Economics, O'Neill said governments should focus on raising productivity instead of manipulating exchange rates.

The Bush administration is under pressure from US companies to take steps to lower the dollar's exchange rate against other currencies to make exports more attractive.

But O'Neill criticized as "excuse makers" business leaders who complained about market conditions instead of adapting. The former chief executive of aluminum producer Alcoa Inc. said his company had grown steadily despite dramatic shifts in the dollar and the Japanese yen.

"Buried inside the idea of caring about manipulating exchange rates is an idea that I don't agree with at all. That idea is that leaders are supposed to redistribute income," O'Neill said. "The role for leaders is to create value, not to redistribute it."

O'Neill was in Beijing after attending a weekend meeting of Asia-Pacific finance ministers in the eastern Chinese city of Suzhou.

At the business school, O'Neill answered detailed questions from students about economics, financial markets and US tax policy that he said left him "very impressed."

The Treasury secretary forecast a quick American recovery and said China was well-positioned to keep its economic growth above 7 percent a year.

O'Neill called the current American slowdown a "cyclical correction" that should pass "in the near future." He said Beijing's finances gave it the flexibility for more government spending if needed to drive economic growth as the world economy slows.

O'Neill

Responding to a question from a student about fears that China's surging growth could fuel a clash with the United States, O'Neill said he couldn't understand "those who fear economic progress."

"There is nothing to fear at all in economic progress in every part of the world," he said. *AFP*

Thai Airways faces rough weather

BANGKOK, Thailand—For an airline that describes itself as "Smooth as Silk," it's been a rough year for Thai Airways.

As if financial losses, political meddling and quarreling between pilots and workers weren't enough, the airline also has confronted two bomb threats and one exploding plane.

Fed up with the problems, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra sacked the airline's president on Thursday and forced the entire board of directors to resign before an expected management restructuring. A new board is expected to be appointed in 30 days.

Analysts say that, this time around, the national carrier has to be serious about resolving internal problems if it wants to compete in an increasingly globalized aviation industry.

"It has gone from being good to a mediocre airline," said Imtiaz Muqbil, a travel industry analyst and writer based in Bangkok.

Other state-run Asian airlines such as Malaysian, Garuda, Philippine Airlines and Air India are also being bogged down by their governments.

"These carriers will have to make a choice. If they don't become properly run commercial corporations, they will end up being regional operators playing second string to big players," said Tom Ballantyne, chief correspondent of Orient Aviation, a trade magazine published in Hong Kong.

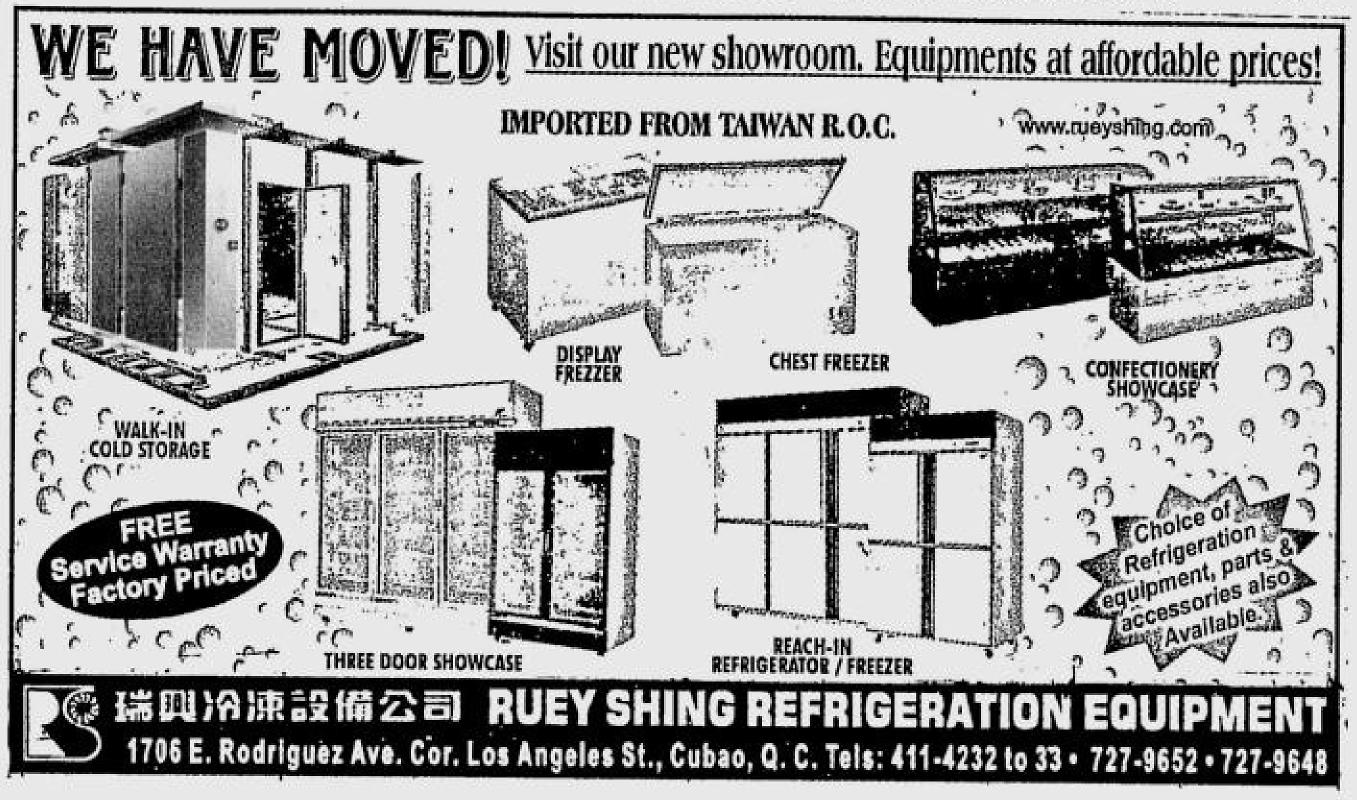
Thai's leading competitors are Singapore Airlines and Cathay Pacific, which were the third and fourth most profitable airlines in the world during the financial year 1999-2000, according to Air Transport World, a global trade magazine published in Washington DC. Singapore Airline's net profit in that period was $742 million. Cathay's was $641.691 million. Thai ranked 19th, with net profits of $113 million.

But since then, revenues have slid dramatically. The company lost 935 million baht ($20 million) from October 2000 to March 2001. The airline's accumulated debt reached nearly $3 billion.

In Thailand, the need for improvement takes greater urgency as the state-owned airline gets ready for a long-awaited privatization plan, including the sale of a minority 13-percent stake to a foreign airline later this year.

Thai Airways' service, punctuality and safety are still rated one of the best in Asia—apart from three delayed flights, customers have not been affected. But behind the scenes, the airline has struggled with self-inflicted problems.

Muqbil and other analysts blame them on excessive government interference. In some instances, powerful politicians have used the airline almost as a personal toy. *AP*



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Economic Prospects of Asia Pacific Economies
Dr. Bernardo Villegas, Dean, School of Economics at UA&P
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Chantal Zimmer, European Franchise Federation
How to Expand Your Franchise Network
Donald Boroian, Chairman, Francorp International

SEPTEMBER 14, 2001 (Friday)
Makati Shangri-la Hotel
Franchising as a Tool for Economic Development
Leonard Swartz, Arthur Andersen
Vicente Paterno, Chairman, 7-Eleven
Voices of Experience from the "Masters of Franchising"
Bill McGowan, Chairman, Fastway Global
Global Trends and Innovations and the Growth of Franchising in the US
James Amos, Chairman, IFA
The Success Story of Jollibee
Claro Certeza, VP, Jollibee

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Acquiring Capital to Build Your Franchise Network
David Frantz, Overseas Private Investment Corp.
Track 2: LEGAL
Structuring A Franchise and Licensing Agreement
Atty. Leo Dominguez, Quisumbing-Torres Law Offices
Arbitration as a Solution to Settle Disputes
Louise Barrington, Chair, ICC's Working Party on Small Claims Arbitration
Legal Aspects in Franchising (Unidroit Law)
Souichirou Kozuka, Professor at Sophia University
Brian Smart, Director, British Franchise Association
ROOM B
Track 3: MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT
Supporting Your Franchisees
William Callagan, Training Specialist, Tricon, Inc.
How to Succeed in Franchising in Asia
Joseph Lau, Managing Director, McDonald's
Lim Wee Kee, VP, Informatics
Revitalizing Your Brand
Emily Abrera, Chairman, McCann Erickson
Reengineering Your Franchise Network
Ichiro Fujita, President, Idealink Japan
Elements of Successful Franchising
Fred de Luca and Peter Slomianyj, Subway
ROOM C
Special Session:
Franchise Sales and Marketing Strategies
Don Boroian, Chairman, Francorp International
Track 4: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Using Internet Technology to Expand Your Business
EBusiness Strategies and Solutions

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Great interest in home improvement, renovation and interior detailing activities resulting from the construction boom last decade has brought about a great influx of construction tools, materials and interior enhancement products into the market. Consumers now have a wider choice of the best tools and materials. The enthusiasm for building and home improvement reflects the Filipino value that there's no place like home.

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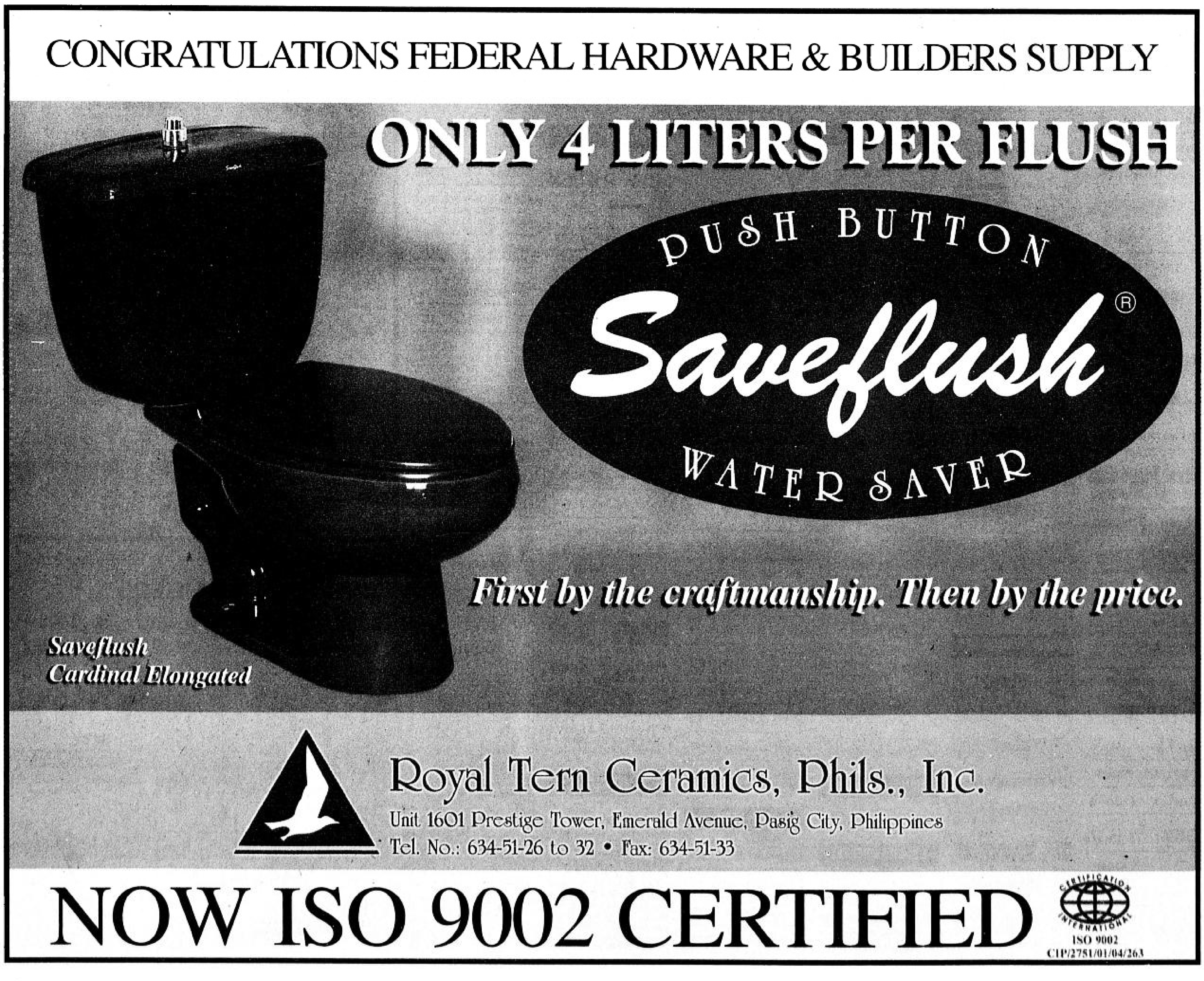

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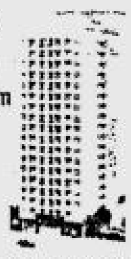

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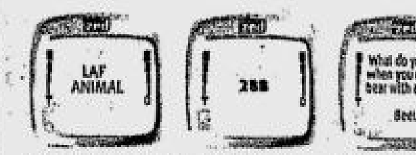

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
Metro Manila
SIGLA

September 6, 2001

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

RPBAC-IPB NO. 2001-03

The Department of Health - Center for Health Development for Metro Manila (CHD-MM) invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for various medical/dental and laboratory supplies for the use of CHD-MM.

Only duly accredited suppliers/manufacturers and/or exclusive distributors as certified by the Suppliers Accreditation Committee for Medical/Dental and Laboratory Supply of the DOH are qualified to participate in this bidding.

Bidding documents can be secured from Ms. Elenita Esmero or Ms. Teresita Padilla, Bldg. #1, 2/F, CHD-MM, Welfareville Compound, Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIVE HUNDRED PESOS, Philippine Currency (P500.00).**

Schedule of Activities

a. **Issuance of Bid Documents**	September 17-20, 2001 (9:00 AM - 3:00 PM) Building 1, 2/F, CHD-MM Welfareville Cmpd., Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City
b. **Submission of Eligibility Requirements**	September 26, 2001 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM) Conference Room, LHAD Bldg., CHD-MM Welfareville Cmpd., Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City
c. **Pre-bid Conference**	September 26, 2001 (1:30 PM - 3:00 PM) Conference Room, LHAD Bldg., CHD-MM Welfareville Cmpd., Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City
d. **Submission of Sealed Bids**	October 4, 2001 (9:30 AM - 10:00 AM) Conference Room, LHAD Bldg., CHD-MM Welfareville Cmpd., Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City

For further information, please contact Ms. Esmero or Ms. Padilla, Secretariat, Bids & Awards Committee (BAC) for Office and Medical Supplies, at telephone numbers **718-3097** or **535-4521**.

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the CHD-MM's action.

(Sgd.) **DAVID J. LOZADA, JR., MD., MPA, CESO IV**
Director IV, CHD-MM

(PDI - Sept. 10 & 11, 2001)

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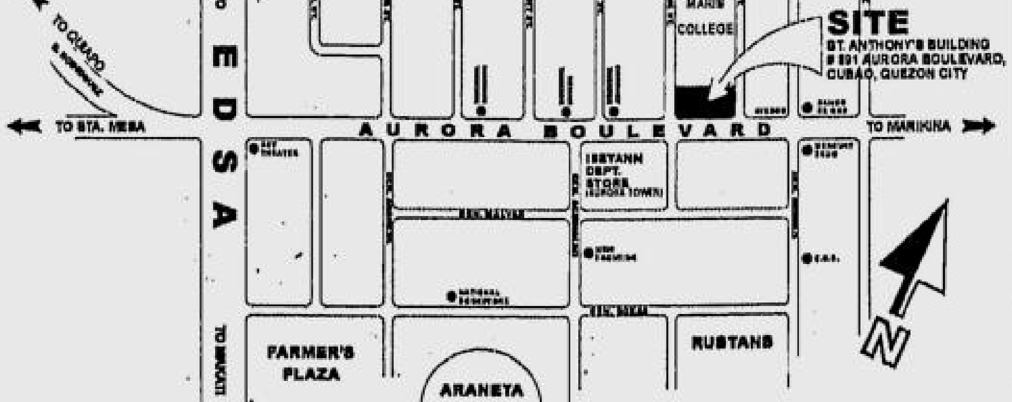

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Forever in our Hearts
On the First Death Anniversary
of our beloved

NESTOR BOTE MANUEL

of Gen. Tinio, Nueva Ecija

Who peacefully joined our Heavenly Father
on September 11, 2000 at the age of 47.

Our beloved **Daddy** and "**Nes**" to friends who gracefully made an exit in this world with a smile on his face. Seeing him go brought great sadness to our family but knowing he has gone back to be with our Creator somehow ease our pain. During our one year of bereavement, we drew our strength from the sympathy of relatives and friends who comforted us and offered their prayers for his safe journey back home.

Our deepest thanks to all.

The Manuel Family

"Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him."
Psalm 34:8

ANDREA ROMERO VILLANUEVA

Born in Gerona, Tarlac on August 14, 1918
Peacefully joined His Creator on September 9, 2001

Her late husband, **Ret. Col. Vicente R. Villanueva**; sons and daughter; in-laws, grandchildren, great grandchildren; sister **Eliza**; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal repose.

Her remains lie in state at C-12, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City. Interment will be on Thursday, September 13, 2001 at 10:00 AM at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

WE DESIGN OBITUARIES FOR FREE.

Our Dearly Beloved

LORENZO C. LIM

Peacefully joined his Creator and his wife, the late ***Florencia G. Lim*** *on September 9, 2001 at the age of 80.*

His bereaved children **Lorenzo Jr.** and **Judy, Manuel** and **Corazon, Elizabeth** and **Charlie, Carmelita** and **Jose, Arsenio** and **Irene, George** and **Lucille**; grandchildren and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

Our dearest darling

Jewel Michelle Nepomuceno Amor

has now joined our Lord and Savior
on September 9, 2001at the age of 14.

leaving a legacy of fond memories to

Her Mom **Jewel**; Dad **Ike**; sister **Camille** and brother-in-law **Paul**; niece **Kyla**; brothers **Christopher** and **Carl Michael**; relatives and friends; Card Channel Interlink. We are requesting all who have become a part of her life to join pay her a visit at the Nacional Memorial Homes, Chapel 3-B at 364 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

EDITHA ROXAS-ANGELES

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on September 4, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and message of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

URSULA BORDADOR SANTOS

Peacefully joined her Creator on September 10, 2001 at the age of 80.

Her bereaved sister **BELEN**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal happiness in Heaven.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 13, 2001 at Meycauayan Bulacan Catholic Cemetery after the Mass.

Maria Consuelo Nieto Alonso Jordan

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on September 10, 2001 at the age of 40.

Her bereaved family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, Chapel 2-B, 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on September 12, 2001.

Eternal life will swallow
up that which can die.
God made us for this very
reason and He has given us the
Spirit as a guarantee that we
will live again.

2 Cor. 5:4-5

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PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road
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Telephone 8931320 loc. 5119/5126

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Medium A in Electrical Works to apply for prequalification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the projects:

1. **Negros Occidental Rural Electrification Project-Stage I (7 Barangays), under Bid/Project No. EDC 01-143**
2. **Negros Oriental Rural Electrification Project-Stage III (18 Barangays), under Bid/Project No. EDC 01-142**

The work calls for the supply of minor materials, labor, supervision, equipment, tools, consumables, and other services necessary to provide electric power supply to the 1.) 7 Barangays located in the towns of Calatrava, Escalante, and San Carlos, 2.) 18 Barangays located in the towns of Bais, Mabinay, Pamplona, Bindoy, Sta. Catalina and Bayawan.

The prequalification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o I.I. Aguilar/L.D. Avelino) starting **September 11, 2001**, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (PHP100.00).

The prequalification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of **September 27, 2001.**

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting **October 9, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (PHP1,000.00).

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **October 18, 2001**, 2:30 p.m. at PNOC-EDC's CAC Conference Rm., Ground Floor, Building V. Site inspection will be scheduled during the pre-bid conference.

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of **November 8, 2001** and then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder(s) whose bid(s) is(are) considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

Ester R. Guerzon
Manager, Operations
Services Division

(PDI – Sept. 11, 2001)

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INVITATION to PREQUALIFY for the SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS LINKS FOR RESIDENT MISSIONS

1. The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for prequalification in the bidding of ADB's Satellite Communications Links For Resident Missions. The ADB Headquarters in Manila requires the use of satellite communications links to facilitate its voice, data and videoconferencing traffic to its Resident Missions. The following Resident Missions have been identified for satellite communications links: India, Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, East Timor, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The contract award will be for any two (2) countries out of the nine identified Resident Mission sites.
2. The service must be secured, can easily be deployed and installed, has unattended operations capability and utilizes state-of-the-art satellite communications technology.
3. Applications for prequalification will only be entertained from companies meeting the following minimum requirements:
    - Have a legal existence for no less than 10 years as a validly registered company;
    - Have an extensive experience in the field of international telecommunications networks and services for no less than 7 years with at least 3 satellite communications projects/contracts of international nature;
    - Have a generated annual revenue derived from telecommunications services of at least P15,000,000 for the past 3 years;
    - Must be a partner of at least one of the global satellite network operators;
    - Have the presence of at least one certified satellite technical engineer stationed in Manila or in any Asian country where its satellite network operations center (NOC) is located.
4. Prequalification documents may be obtained from the Head, Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 4223 North, at the above address, from 12 to 20 September 2001 on any working day (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.), upon presentation of the receipt of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) at the ADB's Cash Room, Room G239W.
5. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of the ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation for prequalification shall be borne solely by the applicant. The ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for prequalification and to reply only to the companies, which are considered by the ADB to be prequalified.

NORMIN S. PAKPAHAN
Chairman
Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

(PDI – Sept. 10 & 11, 2001)

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Special session for students, teachers in Cebu ad congress

WHO is the Pinoy consumer today? Has his or her lifestyle really changed? What do Pinoy kids think and buy these days? What are the myths and truths about teens today? Are we giving the senior market enough attention? How do the OCWs spend their money? How do their spending habits affect the economy?

Students and professors will get the answers to these questions and more in this year's Philippine Advertising Congress to be held on Nov. 22 to 24 at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City. With this year's theme, "Target: Market Asintado sa Pinoy Ngayon," the Congress will probe into who the Pinoy consumer really is. Rather than pursuing a mass audience, the Congress aims to penetrate the more specific target market.

To reach out to the academe and attract the best talents in the industry, the Congress will also conduct special sessions for students and professors and allow them to listen to communication practitioners talk about their roles in the creation of advertising.

Students and professors can avail of the special rate of P3,000 per participant. This fee covers the registration fee and the shuttle transportation to and from Congress venues. For more information or to register, they may get in touch with the Philippine Ad Congress secretariat at Suite 6A Dao I Condominium, 189 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City with tel. nos. 892-8359 and 892-8348. They may also register on line at www.philadcongress.com.

STOP OVER
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BONIFACIO STOPOVER GROUNDBREAKING

Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. (FBDC) top officials were joined by their partners to witness the groundbreaking ceremony of the Bonifacio StopOver. FBDC's latest project will be a full-service Shell gas station with a stand-alone Jollibee outlet and a two-story retail complex housing Starbucks, Hen Lin, Japs, Kameraworld, Ralph's Liquor Store and Zen Day Spa. Bonifacio Stopover is now rising on a 4,000-sqm lot in the western portion of the Global City within the Peza-accredited e-Square IT park. Present were (from left) Rey Gamboa, vice president for corporate affairs, Shell; Oscar S. Reyes, chair and president, Shell; Ricardo S. Pascua, FBDC president and CEO; Andrew Freeman, president and general manager of Bonifacio Construction Management Corp.; Cesar Romero, retail business manager-Metro Manila, Shell; Vicente C. Tinsay III, FBDC senior vice president for commercial operations 2; and Eric Alcantara, Jollibee area manager, regional business unit-South Luzon.

Gift company now online

EVERYONE loves a gift giver.
And everyone loves the feeling of receiving a good gift; most especially if the gift comes in a beautiful box, tied with a pretty bow, and accompanied by a heartwarming note.

Now, there is a company that understands this completely, Redbox & Co.

Red Box & Co. offers gifts that have been carefully selected from a variety of sources. It has commissioned artisans from different parts of the country and has tie-ups with leading brands, to offer wide array of out-of-the-box gift ideas. A theme is given to every gift, and packed creatively to make it really special.

All gifts are placed in an elegantly handcrafted red box, which represents good luck, importance, love, prosperity and even power. No matter what size your gift is, a red box will be specially made for it. These red boxes are accented with a satin ribbon of the season or occasion and a red card bearing your personal massage.

Now Red Box & Co. makes the joy of gift giving effortless and rewarding. Visit their website at www.redboxandco.com for details or call customer service at 02-942-0918 for out of the box gift ideas.

FORT BONIFACIO

DIGITEL INTERCONNECTION

Bonifacio Cable One Corporation (BCOC), a subsidiary of Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC), recently signed a memorandum of understanding with Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (Digitel). This will allow Digitel to interconnect its fiber optic facilities to BCOC's access points located in strategic sites within e-Square, the 25-hectare, Peza-registered IT Park of the Bonifacio Global City. BCOC is an active cable TV service provider that obtained its provisional authority for CATV service from the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) in April 1998. Digitel is a telecommunications service provider also licensed by the NTC to provide, install, operate and maintain telecommunications facilities and services in its enfranchised areas. At left is Brian Go, managing director and Vicente C. Tinsay, III, BCOC director.

AMA Bank branches relocated

TO SERVE its clientele better, four branches of AMA Bank, part of the AMA Group of Companies, have been transferred to new locations.

The Cainta branch has been moved to 667 A. Bonifacio Avenue, Cainta, Rizal, with contact numbers 655-9068, 655-9072, 248-0209 and 656-0313, while the AMA Bank Valenzuela is now at Alsan Building Kilometer 17 Mac- Arthur Highway Malanday, Valenzuela City, with tel. nos. 443-1331, 443-1332, 294-0468 and 294-0756.

AMA Bank Bacoor has been relocated at Unit 114 and Unit 115 Conrado Commercial Complex Niog 1, Bacoor, Cavite, with business numbers (046) 471-6541, (046) 417-6373 and (046) 417-9483, meanwhile the Iloilo branch is now at ATM Business Center corner Jalandoni and Ledesma Streets, Iloilo City, with contact numbers (033) 336-9157, (033) 336-9158, (033) 336-9159 and (033) 336-9160.

There are now 19 AMA Bank branches nationwide including the head office at 311 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. Other branches are in Las Piñas; Marikina; Morong; Muntinlupa; Pasig; Tanay; San Pablo; Siniloan, Laguna; Tayug, Pangasinan; Mandaue; Cagayan de Oro City; General Santos City; Osamis City and Valencia, Bukidnon.

AMA Bank is aggressively into used car financing. It accepts '91 up to 2000 models with a minimum down payment of 40 percent of the appraised value payable monthly in two years. Interested parties may apply at the head office or may call at 533-4055/533-4029. Look for Ed Apacible, vice president for marketing.

Soon AMA Bank will be offering salary loans to employees of top 1,000 companies with competitive interest rates and liberal terms. Payment is via salary deductions.

HOUSE OF SARA LEE'S NEW VIP BENEFICIARY

House of Sara Lee, one of the country's leading direct selling companies, recently awarded another beneficiary of their Vehicle Incentive Program (VIP), specifically designed for top-seller independent business managers (IBMs) as a special benefit for their outstanding performance. Nelia Lorenzo, an IBM from Olongapo branch, received a brand-new Mitsubishi Sports Adventure. Shown are Perry Mogar, Sara Lee direct selling Asia president; Tates Ticsay, team leader; Emmanuel Samson, VIP beneficiary Kalookan branch; Norlito Lorenzo with wife, IBM Nelia Lorenzo; Simon Hemus, Sara Lee direct selling worldwide president; and Ricky Sy, House of Sara Lee Philippines general manager.

CANADA TRADE MISSION SPONSOR

The Megaworld Foundation has agreed to sponsor Junior Team Philippines (JTP) global ambassador Ronald Lee Alejandro (center), a BS Management Engineering graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University, to the second annual JTP economic trade mission to Canada. The Economic Trade Mission aims to promote the Philippines' potential markets abroad to help encourage investor confidence in the country. The mission will provide JTP members with hands-on training and skill development in the areas of entrepreneurship and IT. As a global ambassador, Alejandro will represent the country, his school and sponsor company, Megaworld, in discussions with different business, education and government leaders. Junior Team Philippines, organized and hosted by Global Vision, an international non-profit organization, is a group of top Filipino youth leaders aged 18 to 25 who have demonstrated leadership ability, business and technical knowledge and a passion for international business. JTP members are selected through a national competition based on their overall achievement and previous work and volunteer experience. JTP is among the various groups in the community supported by the Megaworld Foundation. Shown is Megaworld Foundation treasurer Francis Canuto (left) with Alejandro and Sandee Leong, marketing manager of Global Vision Junior Team Philippines.

Radio network launches nationwide promo

THREE new millionaires will be proclaimed on Oct. 6 by Radio Mindanao Network as the broadcast firm gives away P3 million cash to winners of a nationwide promotional blitz.

The promo titled "Radyo Milyonaryo Nationwide Promo Part 2" is carried out in all 48 RMN-owned stations all over the country and is churning out to over P8 million worth of prizes.

"This is an exciting event for our listeners throughout the Philippines," said Eric Canoy, president of RMN, as he pointed out that nine big consumer brands have thrown support behind the promotional campaign. These are Safeguard, Vetracin, Juicy Fruit Gum, Latigo 100, Baguio Oil, Biogesic, Enervon C, Alaxan and Manila Bulletin.

"The promo offers three components, the daily phone-in, the weekly field promo and the raffle promo wherein weekly, regional and a grand draw will be held," added Canoy.

There will be 1,920 winners in the daily phone-in promo, each winning P250 cash and P250 worth of gift packs. Phone-in participants are required to identify all participating sponsors correctly. In claiming prizes, winners must submit proof of purchase required for the promo at the participating station.

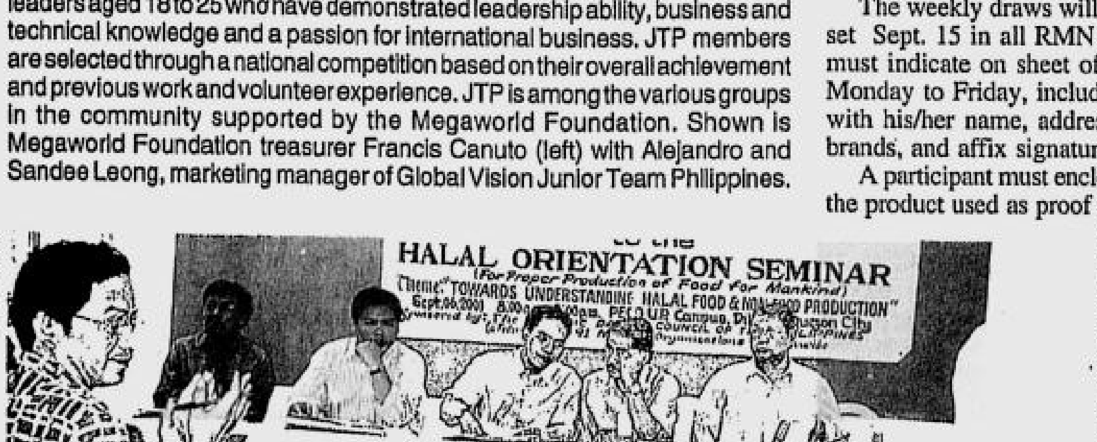
Another 1,000 winners will be chosen in the weekly promo. Reporters of RMN AM stations will rove in selected areas and anyone caught with proof of purchase of any of the sponsoring brands automatically wins P500 cash.

The weekly draws will have a total of 864 winners, with the raffle draw set Sept. 15 in all RMN stations. To join the weekly raffle, a participant must indicate on sheet of paper one qualifying time check per day from Monday to Friday, including the date the time check was heard, together with his/her name, address, and a valid proof of purchase of sponsoring brands, and affix signature.

A participant must enclose the promo entry in white envelope the name of the product used as proof of purchase written on the upper right corner and the week of airing on the upper left corner. Entries must be dropped at drop boxes located at participating stations or mailed to "Radyo Milyunaryo Promo Part 2" c/o the participating RMN stations. Deadline for submissions of entries is every Friday before each weekly draw. Three weekly winners per station will be drawn. The first prize gets P5,000 cash, while the second and third prizes get P3,000 and P1,000, respectively.

Over P1 million in cash prizes await the 30 winners in the two monthly regional draws set Sept. 22 (the first draw was held Aug. 18). All non-winning entries in the first three weeks automatically qualify for the first monthly regional draw, non-winning entries in the second three weeks qualify for the second monthly draw.

The grand raffle draw will be held on Oct. 6 at the PSC Multi-Purpose Arena (formerly Ultra) at 4 p.m. A P1-million cash jackpot awaits each of the three first prize winners (one winner each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao). Three second prize winners will win P200,000 each while the three third prize winners will get P100,000 each.


HALAL ORIENTATION SEMINAR
(For Proper Production of Food for Mankind)
Theme: "TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING HALAL FOOD & NON-FOOD PRODUCTION"

ORIENTATION SEMINAR ON HALAL FOOD

The Islamic Daw'ah Council of the Philippines (IDCP) has just concluded a one-day Orientation Seminar on Halal food and Non-food for Food Processors, Manufacturers, Suppliers and Exporters in the Philippines at the UP Campus, Diliman, Quezon City. This is in connection with IDCP's 20th year anniversary. IDCP president lawyer Abdulrahman R.T. Linzag said that while it is the duty of all Muslims to see to it that whatever they do, including the food they take must be Halal, the IDCP being a federation of 92 Muslims organizations nationwide, took it as its duty to certify food products that are "Halal." The Council is now organizing another Halal Orientation Seminar for Hotels and Restaurants in the Philippines. This was a result of the finding of the Department of Tourism on the essential elements to increase tourism in the country especially Arabs and Asian tourists and businessmen. This will be held at the Manila Hotel on Oct. 3.

PNP HOUSING BENEFICIARIES

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo recently awarded the Pag-Ibig symbolic key to 20 deserving PNP beneficiaries of the Pag-Ibig/PNP housing project. This is in accordance with the government's thrust of providing decent housing for military personnel. Shown are Pag-Ibig president and CEO Manuel C. Crisostomo, HUDCC chair Michael T. Defensor, President Arroyo, Pampanga Governor Manuel 'Lito' Lapid and Col. Conrado Briton.

ASP ONLINE

Actuarial Society of the Philippines (ASP) recently signed an e-Service Consulting Engagement with E-Z Business Solutions Inc. (E-Z) for e-commerce strategy formulation and website development and maintenance. E-Z is a management and IT Consulting Firm that offers e-Services and end-to-end business solutions to the insurance and other financial industries. Present during the contract signing were (seated, from left) Roy Racela, ASP website committee chair and Vicky Lim, E-Z president and CEO; (standing, from left) Jhardz Tarrago, E-Z business-technology manager; Lia Gamboa, E-Z business development manager; Liza Reyes, ASP website governor in charge and Conrad Dela Cruz, ASP vice president.

Primelink ordered not to sell membership shares

BY JERRY ESPLANADA

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has issued a permanent cease and desist order (CDO) against Primelink Properties and Development Corp. which prevented the real estate firm from selling its membership shares to the public.

The Mandaluyong City-based firm had sold more than P62 million worth of stocks although it was never a licensed broker nor an authorized dealer of securities, according to the SEC.

In a 12-page ruling, the commission said Primelink "acted as issuer and seller of securities although it is merely registered as a real estate developer, in violation of Section 28 of the Securities Regulation Code."

The SEC had earlier issued a CDO against the erring company.

In a directive, the commission also ordered Primelink to pay an additional fine of P666,656 to the commission.

"The fine is based on the total aggregate value of the securities sold multiplied by 4/40th of one percent plus P2,000 for each day of continued violation from the date when the April 30 order was issued," said SEC Chair Lilia Bautista.

The body also directed Primelink to "refund any of its investors the total amount of their respective investments plus legal interests thereof, computed from the date of the contractual agreement" between the investors and the real estate firm.

Warning

In the SEC order, the commission also warned that "failure to comply with any of the foregoing directives shall result in the institution of contempt proceedings against (Primelink's) officers and administrative proceedings for the revocation of its certificate of registration as well as criminal actions against the persons responsible for the violations of the Securities Regulations Code."

Aside from Bautista, the other signatories in the SEC order were Commissioners Fe Eloisa Gloria, Edijer Martinez and Joselia Poblador.

According to the SEC directive, issued by the commission's compliance and enforcement directive, the first cease and desist order against Primelink was issued on Feb. 17, 1997.

The February 1997 order also covered Pamana Island Resort Hotel and Marina Club Inc. and Subic Island Residential Marina and Yacht Club, a nonregistered entity, for "illegally selling or offering membership shares to the public."

Not licensed broker, dealer

The SEC's brokers and exchanges department (now market regulation department) had earlier issued a certification, saying the firm was neither a licensed broker nor a licensed dealer of securities.

On April 18, 1997, Primelink was fined P50,000 by the SEC.

On April 30, 1998, the commission's money market operation department (MMOD) initiated an administrative case against Primelink.

The filing of the case was based on the SEC's "possession of the following brochures: investment information sheet; special devaluation buster investment plan; price information sheet; unit specifications; project information sheet; and initial price offering; all of which vividly showed that it offered for sale to the public the proprietary membership shares of Subic Island Residential Marina and Yacht Club (SIRMYC) and Punta Caliraya Health and Country Club."

Admission

In a manifestation submitted to the commission on June 23, 1998, Primelink admitted that it "sold (on Aug. 8, 1997) in an isolated manner three membership shares of SIRMYC during the launching of its La Marina Pointe Condominiums."

The SEC alleged the three shares were sold to Kenneth Chua, Aleth Mercado and Roy Padilla. "In the said pleading, Primelink also made an undertaking to register said securities with the commission at a later date," the commission said.

"On the basis of Primelink's admission that it sold three membership shares without prior registration, a SEC order (dated July 13, 1998) ordered Primelink to pay a fine in the amount of P76,500 without prejudice to the filing of criminal charges against the individuals responsible for the violation. On July 31, 1998, Primelink paid the fine. Upon payment of the fine, the case was considered closed and terminated, unless related incidents require a reopening of the case," said the SEC report.

According to the commission, "the reopening of the Primelink case came to fore when on Nov.27, 1998, a letter from lawyer Aleta Tolentino against Primelink was sent to the office of Commissioner Gloria. In her letter, Tolentino informed the SEC that Primelink, despite the CDO issued against it, continued to sell membership shares without the required SEC registration. She also provided the SEC with a list of supposed buyers of Primelink."

On Dec.18, 1998, the MMOD endorsed to the SEC's prosecution and enforcement department the documents on file pertaining to Primelink for further investigation on possible violations of the existing CDO and other provisions of the Revised Securities Act.

"Based on the reply slips received by the commission, there were 124 persons and an additional four more investors who purchased the SIRMYC membership shares from Primelink for P62,663,959."

Complaint

Between Feb.28 and May 15, 2001, four investors–Bayani Fontanilla III, Ramon Debuque, Emmanuel Paralisan and Marcela Quiogue–filed a complaint against Primelink, alleging "inter alia nonregistration of the securities, noncompletion of the project and nonissuance of membership certificates."

On March 6 and 23, the SEC ordered Primelink to file its counter-affidavit. On March 19, the real estate firm was ordered to show cause why no additional penalty should be imposed against it for violating Section 8, Chapter 3 of the Securities Regulation Code.

On April 23, the SEC gave Primelink one last chance to file its counter-affidavit.

On March 14, the commission said Primelink was neither a licensed broker nor a securities dealer. The following day, the commission's corporation finance department issued a certification, saying Primelink was not a licensed issuer of its own securities nor does it have any pending registration statement for the registration of its securities.

In its manifestation, Primelink claimed Pamana should be held liable for the complaints filed by Fontanilla and Debuque.

But the commission pointed out that "the only issue in this case is whether or not Primelink sold or offered securities to the public without first obtaining the necessary license."

"The pieces of evidence on file with the records of this case all squarely point to Primelink, not Pamana, as the issuer and seller of SIRMYC shares," the SEC noted. "This finding is further reinforced by Primelink's admission in its manifestation/motion to the commission."

In its manifestation filed with the commission on June 23, Primelink committed itself to "comply with all existing rules and regulations, as well as directives and orders, that this commission will issue in connection with this case."

"And yet, Primelink continues to defy the CDO issued by this commission," according to the SEC's top officials.

Commercial hub rises at Laguna BelAir

HOUSING developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. has stepped up the development of the commercial center of its highly successful Laguna BelAir township development in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Inspired by the famed Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, California, the fast-rising commercial center now plays host to a number of business establishments. It features a design theme that blends well with the character of the Laguna BelAir Village. Pedestrian-friendly walkways set amid greenery make store hopping a pleasurable experience.

Catering to Laguna BelAir homeowners and nearby communities, the commercial center is zoned into two parts: The Strip along the township's Rodeo Drive and The Center, which lines the Sta.Rosa-Tagaytay National Highway.

Already operating along The Strip are the "K" Line and the CJRS buildings. " K" Line serves the freight requirements and other delivery needs of nearby business establishments, offices and manufacturing plants. On the other hand, the CJRS is a one-stop shop housing a convenience store, an Internet café, a ready-to-wear boutique, a beauty salon, a bookstore and a laundry outlet.

Construction is under way for two other multilevel commercial buildings, which are set to open by the end of the year and will house a variety of specialty shops and services to meet the growing demands of the community. The Strip features medium-size lots that are ideal for businesses such as salons, bookstores, delicatessen, minigroceries, hardware, computer shops and health clinics.

At The Center, a gasoline station and a famous bistro outlet will soon join McDonald's and Metrobank, both of which have been operating at Laguna BelAir for more than two years now. Also opening soon is a Servitek shop catering to the community as well as to motorists plying the Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay route. The Center offers larger lot sizes suited to the needs of banks, corporate offices, fastfood outlets, gasoline stations and showrooms.

Empire East has set up efficient security and on-site building maintenance services for the tenants of the commercial area, strategically located on the highway along with a number of important manufacturing facilities and world-class industrial parks.

Once completed, the Laguna BelAir commercial center will be a one-stop shopping, dining and entertainment hub south of Metro Manila.

HOTEL COMPLETION

Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. is completing the hotel and amenities of its Club Morocco Beach Resort and Residential Estates in Subic. The hotel, which will serve as the resort clubhouse, has 30 twin-sharing rooms, suites, kitchen, dining facilities and boutiques, function rooms, gym, game rooms and swimming pool. Royale Homes Marketing Inc. exclusively handles the sales and marketing of Club Morocco Beach Resort and Residential Estates, which will be ready by December.

Villeroy & Boch redefines the Filipino bathroom

GONE are the days when the bathroom was purely functional and utilitarian. In those days, you were all set when you had the traditional washbasin, the water closet, a shower and when extravagance intrudes, perhaps a modest bathtub.

Today, the mindset says that design esthetics in the bathroom is essential as more and more people—especially those leading dynamic and stressful careers in the metropolis—are convinced that those few moments of relaxation in one's bathroom are truly worth it.

"Bathrooms have transformed into forums for self-expression and a haven for the individual. And we want to share that kind of bathroom culture to the Filipinos," says Ralf Banaski, Villeroy & Boch's regional sales head.

And indeed, the world-renowned brand for bathroom fixtures, tiles and accessories is intent on showcasing "bathrooms that evoke emotions" and even "kitchens that pose invitations to indulge."

Latest concept

To give its clients a peek on what Villeroy & Boch plans to do in interior design, the European brand has unveiled its latest concept called "The House of Villeroy & Boch."

"We devised this new concept to let our customers have a feel of what it's like walking through their dream home. We are not only offering them products here, we are offering them an experience," Banaski says.

BANASKI

The House of Villeroy & Boch allows customers to go through its line of products for the home, which includes tiles, bathroom fixtures and accessories, kitchenware and a complete line of tableware. The products are designed to satisfy and cater to the customers' discriminating tastes. Several models will thus be highlighted in the showroom.

Exclusively distributed by Hamburg International Sales Corp. in the Philippines, Villeroy & Boch, which became famous for revolutionizing the bathroom through its elegantly crafted bathroom fixtures and accessories, is featuring its product line in Hamburg's Pasong Tamo showroom in Makati.

Family tradition

The family owned Villeroy & Boch is now being managed by the eighth founding generation headed by Luitwin Gisbert von Boch, Villeroy & Boch has now become a tradition handed down from generation to generation and is considered one of the most successful family business ventures to date.

From making clay pots when it started in 1748, Villeroy & Boch now boasts of a complete line of tiles, bathroom ware, kitchenware and tableware. Merging design, functionality and tradition, the Villeroy & Boch line offers varying creations to match diverse tastes.

And as Banaski concludes, "We see a design revolution not only in the bathroom but in the whole interior of the house as well. But we also recognize that we are going through a lot in these times of economic crisis. That's why we also emphasize that in the House of Villeroy & Boch, design and functionality are our main attraction, but affordability of its beauty is considered as well."

Most advanced home security system now in RP

SEQUTECH Corp., the emerging leader in security systems, introduces Powermax the most advanced home security system to guard your home.

Made in Israel by its top manufacturer of sophisticated home security systems and technologies Visonic Ltd., Powermax is the most reliable in the market today.

"Reliability is the name of the game. Israel is No. 1 in security so you can be sure of the system's quality," says Sequtech Corp. president Patrick Antonio. Powermax is the same system that is being used to guard the tomb of Jesus in Jerusalem.

Wireless

Powermax, adds company executive officer Tony Antonio, fits the need of the new market because it is wireless and easy to install. It is the only security system that boasts of a three-in-a-one feature: it integrates security, home automation and communication in one beautiful package.

Powermax consists of a console, or main control center, that can be installed anywhere in the house, and sensors, which can be attached in strategic places of the house. The system can cover as much as 29 zones or areas of the house. The sensors are tamperproof—the sensors or system itself sets off an alarm when tampered. It is fully supervised, has a back-up battery and a full voice prompt that tells which zone is affected.

Its Dialer feature allows the user to program landline and cellular phone numbers, including those of the village security, which the system automatically calls in case of intrusion or emergency. It can also keep track of the user and call him up via the Follow-Me feature.

Disarming

To arm or disarm the system, Powermax can be programmed, either manually through the keypad or remotely through a cell phone. It has eight User Codes, with Code No. 1 serving as master code assigned to the head of the family.

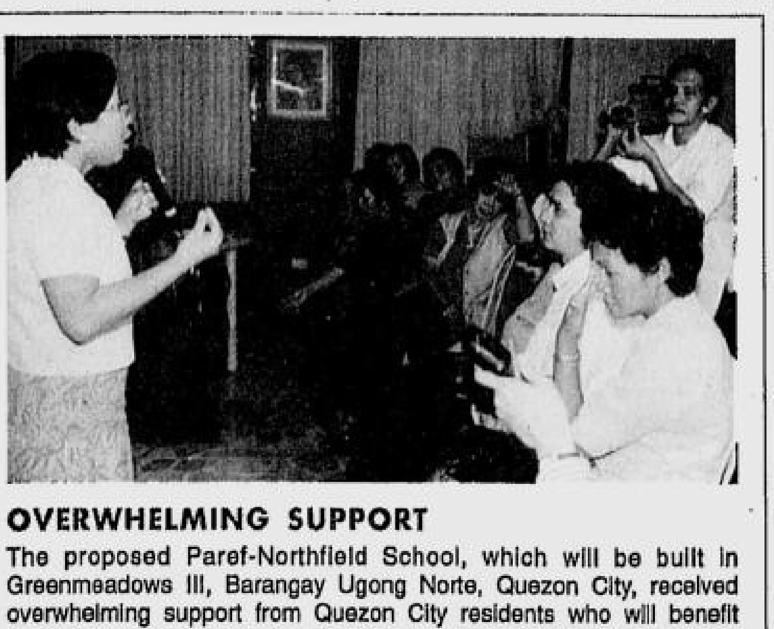
Codes five to eight constitute the latchkey mode and are assigned to family members. When a latchkey user disarms the system, a message is sent to the holder of the master code via his pager or cell phone. When the latchkey message is activated, the parents and their children can open a 2-way communication through a touch-tone phone.

Robotic security

The system also serves as a robotic security with its 100-event log feature, which records the past 100 events for retrieval later, helpful for homeowners who want to know the movements that took place in the house while they were away.

Powermax is perfect not just for homes, but offices as well. It is also a must in large venues such as malls, commercial and industrial centers where security can't be sufficiently covered by roving personnel.

For inquiries on the product, call up Sequtech at 845-3444.



OVERWHELMING SUPPORT

The proposed Paref-Northfield School, which will be built in Greenmeadows III, Barangay Ugong Norte, Quezon City, received overwhelming support from Quezon City residents who will benefit from the school's free education. Quezon City officials and residents hold an open forum wherein the establishment of the Northfield School was defended. The school will provide high school scholarships to poor but deserving youth.

BANK FINANCING OFFER

Camella Homes celebrates San Juan Del Monte cityhood

SEPTEMBER marks the first anniversary of the cityhood of San Jose Del Monte. And to commemorate the event, Camella Homes offers bank financing for all house models in their four major subdivisions in the city.

San Jose del Monte was a major resettlement area in the late '70s and early '80s. Even before the passage of the cityhood bill of San Jose Del Monte, developer Camella Homes already took notice of its potential as it offered lots of green and natural landscapes making it perfect as a residential area.

The city has an outstanding peace and order record and is near commercial areas like Shoe Mart and Robinsons Department Store, both in Fairview.

On the hilly terrain of San Jose Del Monte crests [illegible] housing developments—Wild Wood Park, Cambridge Drive, Lisburn Drive and Grand View Park—which have several house models buyers and investors can choose from.

Alliah is an elegant two-story loft-type house with a floor area of 48 square meters on a minimum lot area of 70 sq. m. The Monrovia house is a two-bedroom, half-loft type home with front lawn, tiled kitchen countertop and a floor area of 44 sq. m on a lot with a minimum area of 85 sq. m. While Myreda is a two-bedroom, single firewall house with a 31-sq.-m floor area, a fenced-in lot with a minimum area of 80 sq. m and provision for a carport.

Call 718-4121 and 727-8993 to 94 to avail of the special bank-financing offer for the whole month of September.

Brittany transplants charms of Europe to heart of Sta. Rosa

ITALIAN cobblestones, lush English parks, French Mediterranean furnishings and Spanish wrought iron gates. These are the charms of Europe real estate industry prime mover Brittany Corp. has transplanted to the heart of Sta. Rosa.

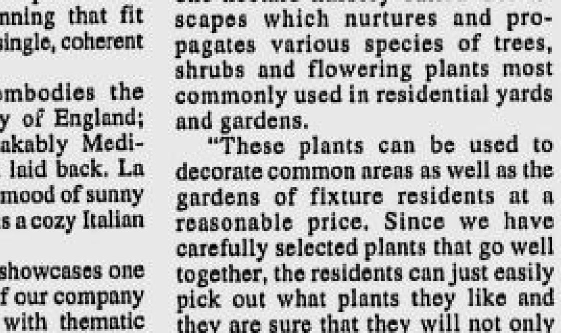
Brittany Sta. Rosa is a P1-billion, 100-hectare development composed of four estates—The Promenade, Belle Reve, La Residencia and Fontamara. These four estates blend unique architectural styles, generous open spaces and sensible suburban planning that fit seamlessly together in a single, coherent European theme.

The Promenade embodies the aristocracy and regality of England; Belle Reve is unmistakably Mediterranean, relaxing and laid back. La Residencia captures the mood of sunny Spain while Fontamara is a cozy Italian enclave.

"Brittany Sta. Rosa showcases one of the many strengths of our company which is to come up with thematic estates," says Jing Serrano, general manager of Brittany.

To preserve the coherent look of the estates, Brittany initiates self-funded value-added undertakings. At the Promenade, for example, is a one-hectare nursery called Greenscapes which nurtures and propagates various species of trees, shrubs and flowering plants most commonly used in residential yards and gardens.

"These plants can be used to decorate common areas as well as the gardens of fixture residents at a reasonable price. Since we have carefully selected plants that go well together, the residents can just easily pick out what plants they like and they are sure that they will not only blend with but even add beauty to the existing theme," Serrano concludes.



THIS is one of the European themed estates right in the heart of Sta. Rosa.

REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Bridges may lead to dynamic economy

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

A BRIDGE'S job is self-explanatory. When we need to get from point A to point B but there's a ravine or a river in between, we build something to literally bridge the gap.

Bridges are an indispensable part of our daily lives. Bridges answer our every need—from the basic (as in to be able to get from A to B) to the dramatic (remember action film star Dante Varona's famous jump over the San Juanico bridge?) to the artistic (who won't be awed over the sight of a Golden Gate Bridge?).

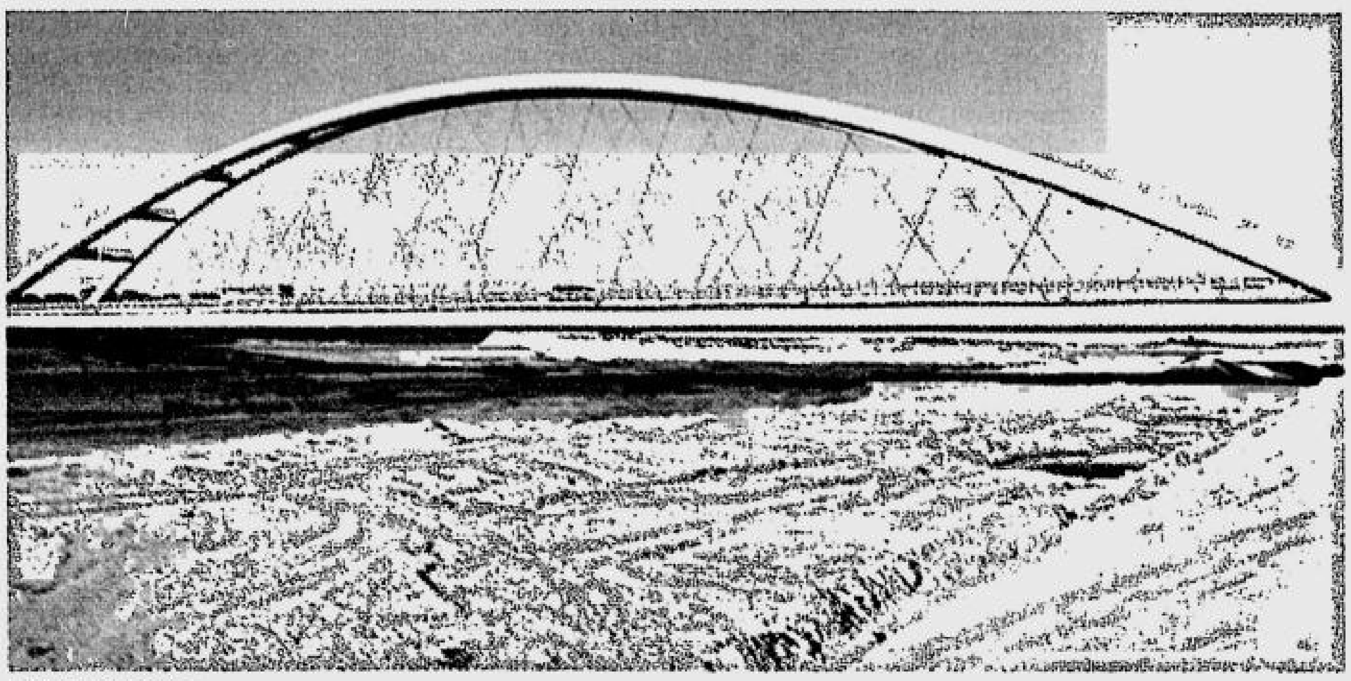
Final link

Our bridges may even be the final link for the Philippines to move forward. "Like a Bridge over Troubled Waters," or like bridges over a troubled economy, these engineering and architectural feats can fulfill their true meaning for our thousands of scattered islands and peoples. And here's some good news, too, for all bridge romantics out there. The government will be spending more in 2002 in building more bridges.

Senate Majority Floorleader Loren Legarda-Leviste has revealed that P57.3 billion is earmarked for public infrastructure projects. This is 15 percent more than the 2001 budget. Included in the projects are the construction, strengthening and replacement of 10,693 linear meters of bridges and 4,360 linear meters of flyovers, interchanges and overpasses.

Esthetically pleasing

To know the kind of bridges to be built remains to be seen. But insofar as the existing Philippine bridges are concerned, there are a number of esthetically pleasing ones that could serve as inspirations for the government. The Bamban Bridge in Pampanga stands out like a monument amid the lahar, while the Mactan Bridge in Cebu provides a great backdrop to the surrounding body of water.


BAMBAN Bridge

For design engineers, making a bridge is easier said than done. There are three basic types of bridges to choose from: a beam, an arch, or a suspension bridge. They also have to consider the length of the bridge to determine the toughest type for the length. Design engineer Michael Morrissey says two forces constantly work on any type of bridge: compression and tension. These are the two forces that make an arch bridge be able to span greater distances than a beam bridge, and suspension bridges be able to span as much as seven times what arch bridges can reach.

Compression, Morrissey defines, acts to compress or shorten the thing it is acting on. Tension works the opposite, attempting to expand or lengthen the thing it is acting on. Much like a spring, when it is pressed down or the two ends of the spring are pushed together, it is being compressed. When it is pulled apart tension is increased.

Good design

A good bridge design should be able to balance the two opposing forces. Otherwise, the bridge would buckle or snap. Buckling happens when there's too much compression. A bridge snaps when there's too much tension.

You can imagine the punishment our bridges go through when earthquakes happen, as both extreme forces of compression and tension play on the bridges.

Morrissey said that the best way to handle these forces is to dissipate or transfer them. To dissipate, he explained, is to spread them out over a greater area so that not one spot has to bear the brunt of the concentrated force. To transfer is to move the forces from an area of weakness to an area of strength, or to an area designed to handle the forces. An arch bridge is a good example of dissipation while a suspension is a good example of transference. A beam bridge is just a rigid horizontal structure resting on two piers, one at each end.

Next time you cross a bridge, try to picture how our design engineers have "dissipated" or "transferred" the two forces working against each other, and making these work instead to strengthen the bridge. Maybe that's what this country needs after all—a balance between two opposing forces. The perfect yin and yang to get us where we want to go.

MACTAN Bridge

Fund sources just waiting to be tapped?

BY CHARLIE V. GORAYEB

A NUMBER of major sources of housing funds appear to be just waiting to be tapped to get the government's housing program going for the homeless, particularly the underprivileged and the poor families. This is clearly gleaned from the provisions of existing legislation that have provided these sources of housing funds.

Recently, however, some government housing agencies complained that the delivery of housing units to the beneficiaries is being stalled by lack of funding. So, what has gone wrong with these sources of funds?

Agency heads or representatives testified before the House of Representatives committee on housing and urban development chaired by Rep. Prospero C. Nograles. They also reported that the existing Multi-Window Lending System for socialized housing is not working. Banks are supposed to be accredited to serve as conduits of the Pag-Ibig, the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System.

For instance, the Comprehensive and Integrated Shelter Financing Act (Cisfa) has provided housing funds and pinpointed their nonbudgetary sources. The sources are:

Incremental revenues from the increase in documentary stamp tax for mass socialized housing; 40 percent of the 50 percent national government's mandatory share from the annual aggregate gross earnings of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor); 12 percent of all proceeds of any sale of portions of the Metro Manila military camps to finance mass social housing projects for underprivileged and homeless citizens;

All fund sources under the Urban Development and Housing Act not accruing to local government units, such as a minimum of 50 percent from the annual net income

GORAYEB

of the Public Estates Authority, proceeds from ill-gotten wealth not otherwise previously set aside for any other purposes, and proceeds from the sale or disposition of alienable public lands in urban areas; proceeds from forfeited customs bonds, and a maximum of 50 percent of savings from the budgeted amount for debt servicing.

On top of the above sources of funds for housing, Cisfa also provides that the following nonbudgetary funding sources shall be availed of:

1. Ten percent of the mandatory annual contributions by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to the charity fund shall be channeled to socialized and low-cost housing.

2. All unused Agri-Agra allocation funds from banks in the preceding year shall be invested in socialized and low-cost housing.

3. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will make available its rediscounting facilities to institutions or entities providing financing of socialized and low-cost housing in amounts and rates to be determined by the Monetary Board.

Since Cisfa was enacted and took effect in 1995 and up to the year 2002, a funding schedule certified by then chair Dionisio C. dela Serna of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council indicated that some P38.522 billion was expected to be raised from these sources to achieve the objectives of various aspects of the housing program.

These funding sources are in addition to the continuing direct annual national government appropriations of P5 billion, on top of a P5.2 billion for the National Housing Authority resettlement program, P3 billion as subsidy for land acquisition, construction and implementation of the Medium-Rise Public and Private Housing Program, P12 billion for the Community Mortgage Program, P2.542 billion for the cost recoverable program and P3 billion for the local housing program.

An earlier law, the Urban Development and Housing Act, provided the following sources of funds for housing and urban development. These were:

A minimum of 50 percent from the annual net income of the Public Estates Authority for land acquisition for resettlement; proceeds from the disposition of ill-gotten wealth; loans, grants, bequests and donations, whether from local or foreign sources; flotation of bonds, proceeds from social housing tax and subject to the concurrence of local government units, idle lands tax under the Local Government Code; proceeds from the sale or disposition of alienable public lands in urban areas, and domestic and foreign investment or financing through appropriate arrangements. Moreover, local government units were authorized to impose an additional one-half percent tax on the assessed value of all lands in urban areas in excess of P50,000.

The question: Have these sources of funds been properly tapped, released and applied by those concerned to housing?

(Mr. Goyareb is the national president of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations.)

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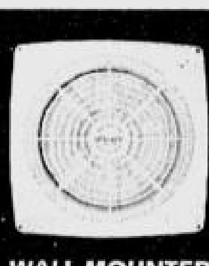
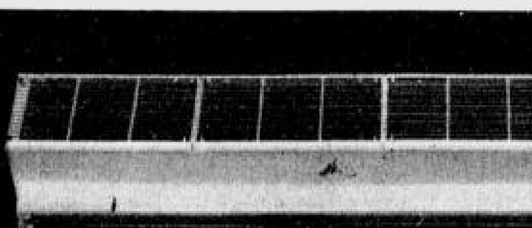
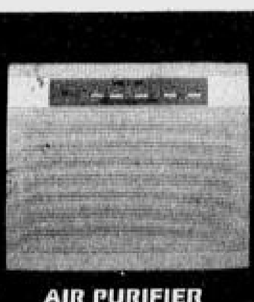
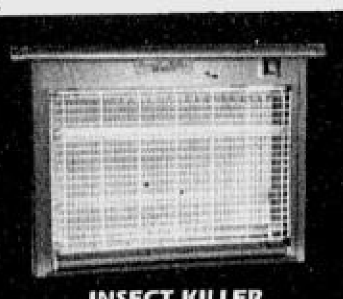

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LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Fitness

Getting an extra boost

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Romy Homillada

IN THE 1980S, men trying to build strong bodies turned to steroids for an extra boost. But when dangerous side effects ranging from baldness to heart and liver problems showed up, these were banned.

Supplements then became the rage since the '90s. But do they really help you build the body of your dreams?

At gyms across the country, men and women are pushing and pulling heavy weights to build bodies bulging with muscle.

But many say it takes more than grueling workouts to develop that chiseled look. For a little help, they turn to concoctions of nutritional supplements like protein powders and amino acids. Whey protein and creatine are two of the latest, hottest products.

The king of proteins, whey protein has bioactive peptides that strengthen the immune systems, suppress appetite and may even protect against some forms of cancer. Although sought after for its muscle-building properties, whey protein can also benefit expectant mothers, the elderly, growing children, trauma victims and patients with degenerative diseases.

"Whey protein is a favorite supplement of athletes who need an efficient protein source, which is very high in quality. If one doesn't consume protein, your body will start releasing amino acids from your muscles. A negative nitrogen balance occurs. For someone trying to gain weight, he doesn't want that to happen. He should always be on a positive nitrogen balance in order to create new muscles," says John Trauman Tan, owner of Base6ix Nutrition, the first Filipino sports nutritional supplement company which produces Crea10 (the first local brand of creatine) and Gr8! Whey Protein.

Creatine, on the other hand, is the best-selling sports nutritional supplement because it accelerates muscle growth and increases strength from weight training.

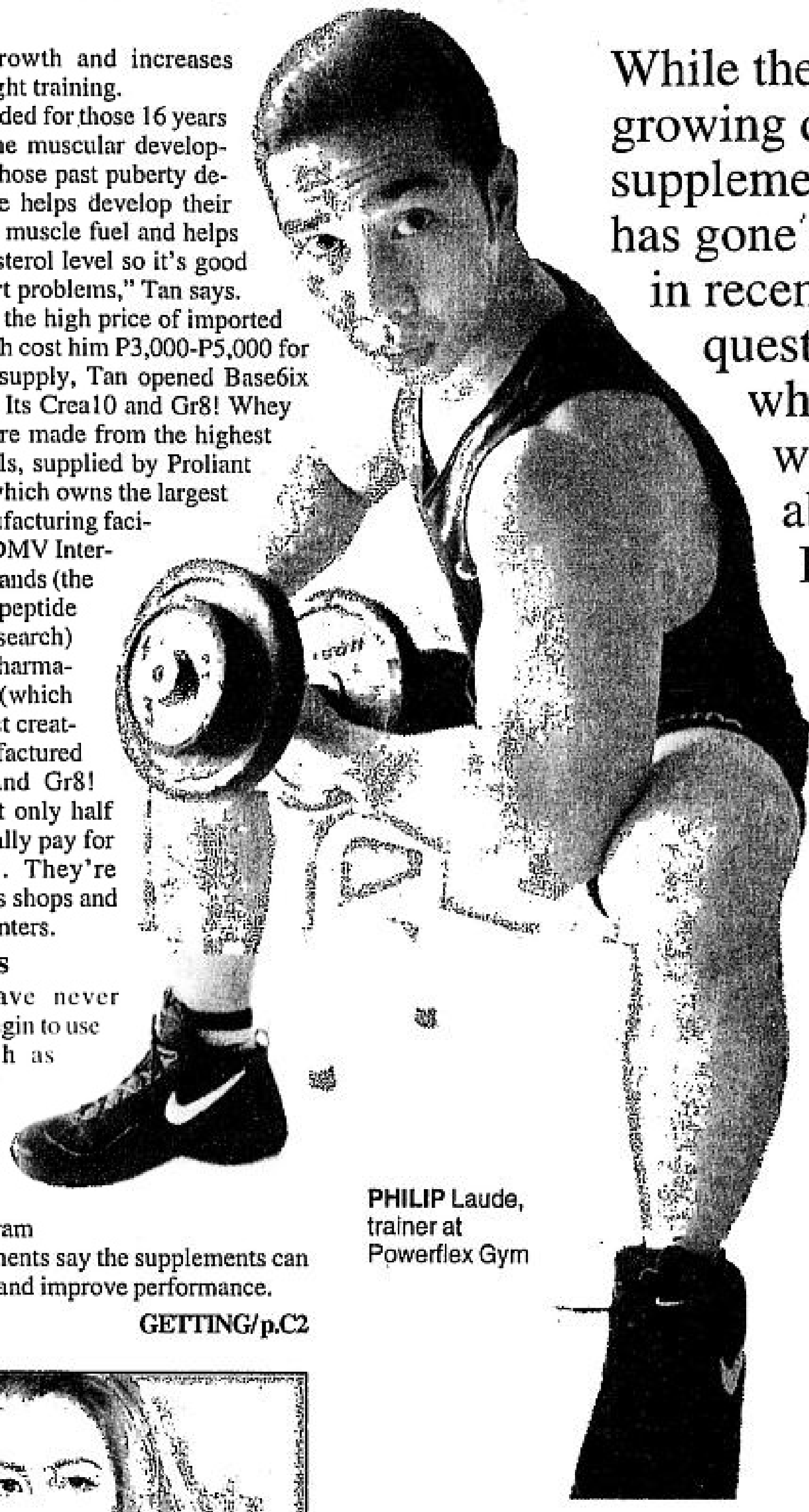
"It's recommended for those 16 years old and above. The muscular development capacity of those past puberty decreases so creatine helps develop their muscles. It acts as muscle fuel and helps lower one's cholesterol level so it's good for those with heart problems," Tan says.

Frustrated with the high price of imported supplements, which cost him P3,000-P5,000 for his own monthly supply, Tan opened Base6ix Nutrition in 1999. Its Crea10 and Gr8! Whey Protein products are made from the highest grade raw materials, supplied by Proliant Inc. of the USA (which owns the largest whey protein manufacturing facility in the world), DMV International of Netherlands (the world's leader in peptide technology and research) and Tiancheng Pharmaceuticals of China (which produces the purest creatine). Being manufactured locally, Crea10 and Gr8! Whey Protein cost only half of what you normally pay for imported brands. They're available at Toby's shops and licensed fitness centers.

Gains

Guys who have never touched weights begin to use supplements such as creatine and whey protein and get dramatic gains. Day after day, they are swallowing gram after gram of the stuff. Proponents say the supplements can safely add muscle and improve performance.

GETTING/p.C2



PHILIP Laude, trainer at Powerflex Gym

While the briskly growing dietary supplement industry has gone mainstream in recent years, questions about what really works still abound. Base6ix Nutrition provides the answers

JOHN Trauman Tan, owner of Base6ix Nutrition

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Getting an extra boost

(From page C1)

Surprisingly, a number of sports experts say they just might be right.

The 25-year-old entrepreneur, Tan, started working out three years ago. But before he did, he was already taking creatine and whey protein. "I was so skinny then that I've always dreamed of having an athletic body type," says Tan. A graduate of industrial design from the University of the Philippines, he was only 125 pounds then. Now he weighs 148 pounds but aims to gain 15 pounds more.

Nelson Sy, 28, owner of Pinnacle Health Pointe Fitness Center, took Crea10 for a couple of months. "It improved my body's definition," says Sy, who has been using Gr8! Whey Protein for four months now, particularly after every workout. "Both products are available at fitness center and I recommend them to our clients."

Twenty-five-year-old Philip Laude, a trainer at Powerflex Gym, consumed creatine for three months. "Max went up on bench-pressing about 800 pounds in a month and my strength just increased rapidly. It has given me a quicker recovery in my exercises," says Laude, who plans to join a bikini open competition next year.

Mr. Philippines 2001 Bong Aguiluz, 32, says that Crea10 has helped "maintain my body fat percentage while Gr8! Whey Protein has improved my recovery after each workout." A freelance trainer on boxing, he is now preparing for Muscle Mania, which will be held on Oct. 28 at the AFP Theater.

Mr. Philippines 1999 Lito Paraiso, 35, has been lifting weights for five years now. He's been especially dedicated, pumping iron at the gym seven days a week and taking a daily dose of creatine and whey protein. With these supplements, he has seen definite changes. "These has helped me get a little stronger. I have grown a little bit in size. Plus, they have given me quicker recovery."

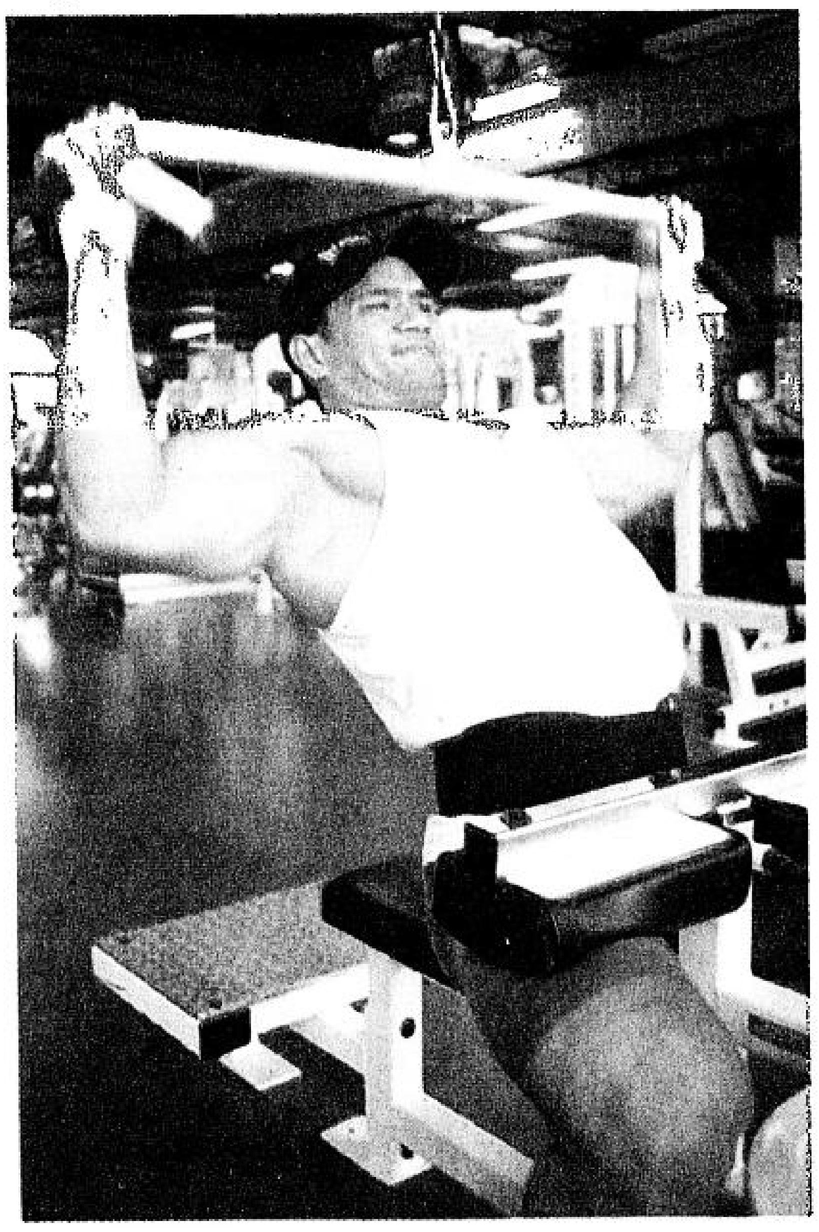
But is it the supplements or the added motivation that comes from believing the supplements work that leads to these results?

"Both lead to such good results. There are a lot of supplements that are fads, just placebos, pills that really do not have a chemical effect. Creatine, for example, produced greater increases in muscle-fiber cross-sectional areas—all without notable side effects. But since it's only a supplement, it can never be a substitute for a balanced diet," Tan says.

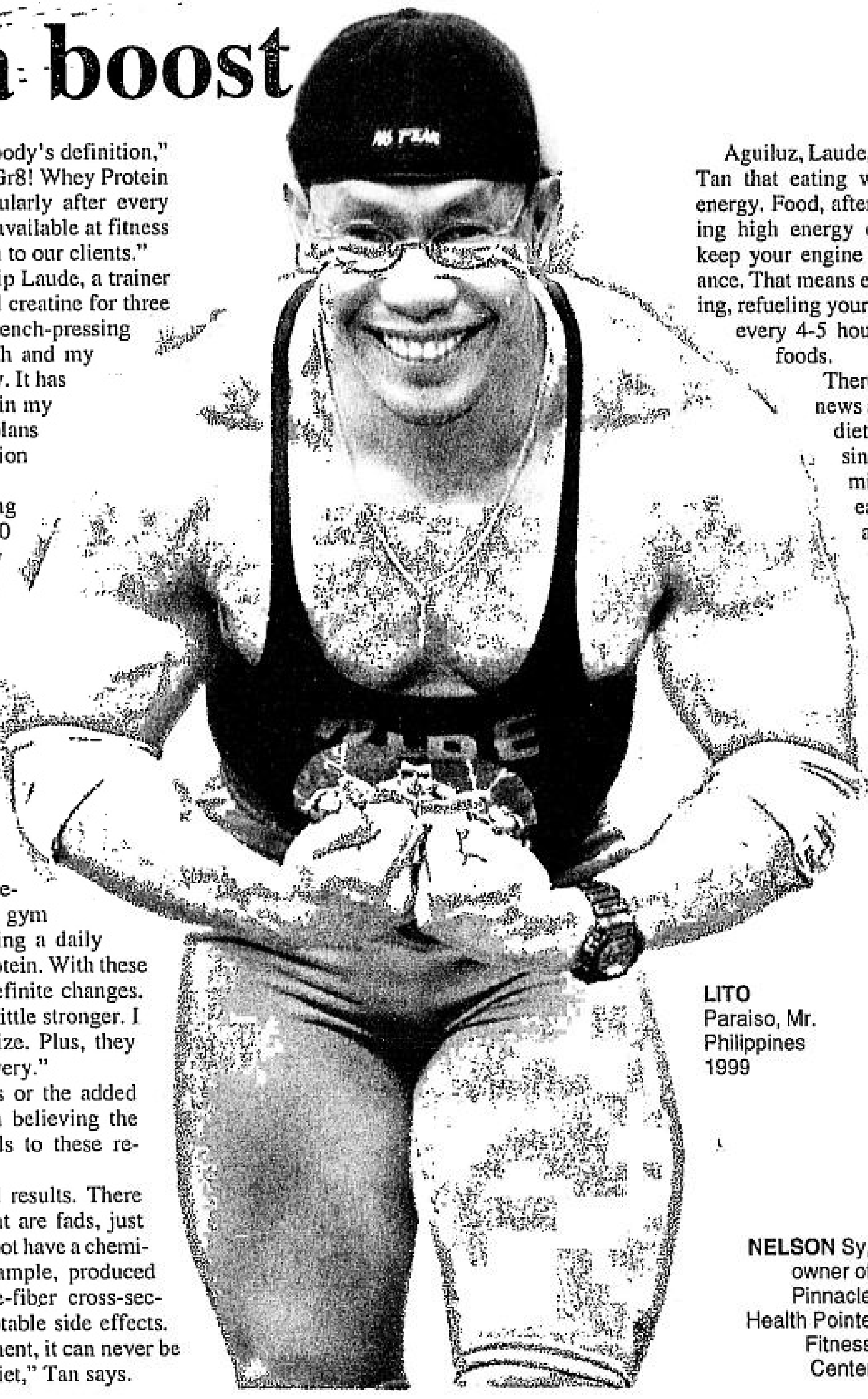
Aguiluz, Laude, Paraiso and Sy agree with Tan that eating wisely can increase one's energy. Food, after all, is body fuel and adding high energy choices to your diet will keep your engine running at peak performance. That means eating breakfast each morning, refueling your body with a meal or snack every 4-5 hours and choosing the right foods.

There's indeed plenty of good news about the health benefits of dietary supplements. But no single pill is going to perform miracles. You've still got to eat right, cut out smoking and excessive drinking, find ways to keep stress low and get regular exercise.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



BONG Aguiluz, Mr. Philippines 2001



LITO Paraiso, Mr. Philippines 1999

NELSON Sy, owner of Pinnacle Health Pointe Fitness Center

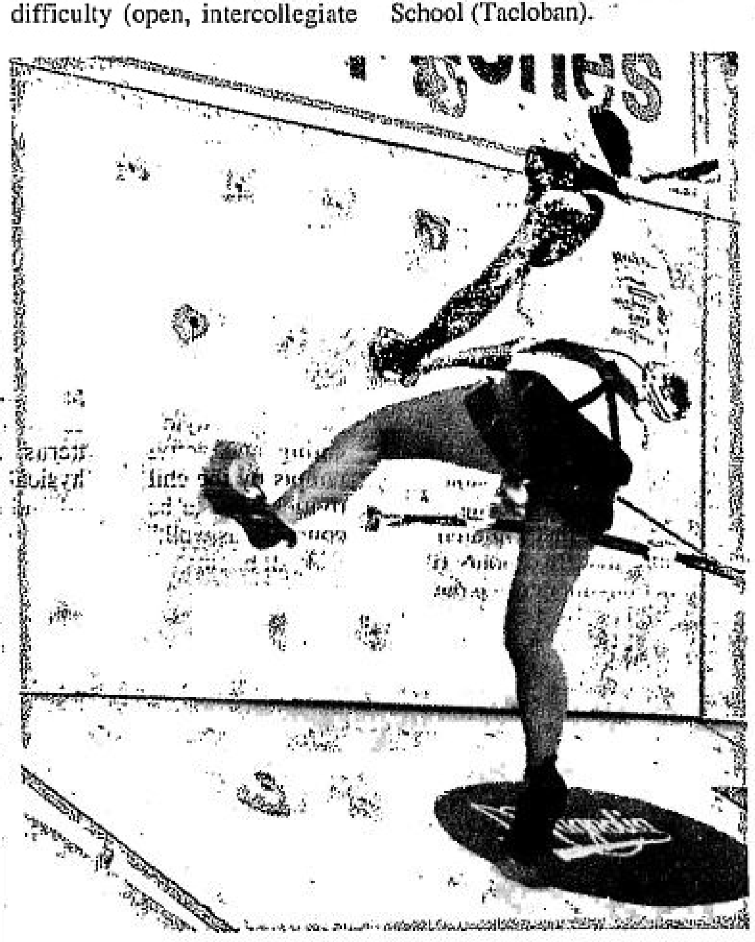
National sport climbing championships ongoing

"OUR climbers have truly gone a long way in the international arena, and they would not have if it weren't for the developmental programs, competitions and events that are staged back home," notes Simon Sandoval, No. 1-ranked climber in the Philippines. As always, it is our civic responsibility to contribute to the development of sports in our country. Hence, the 2001 San Mig Light National Sport Climbing Championships was organized.

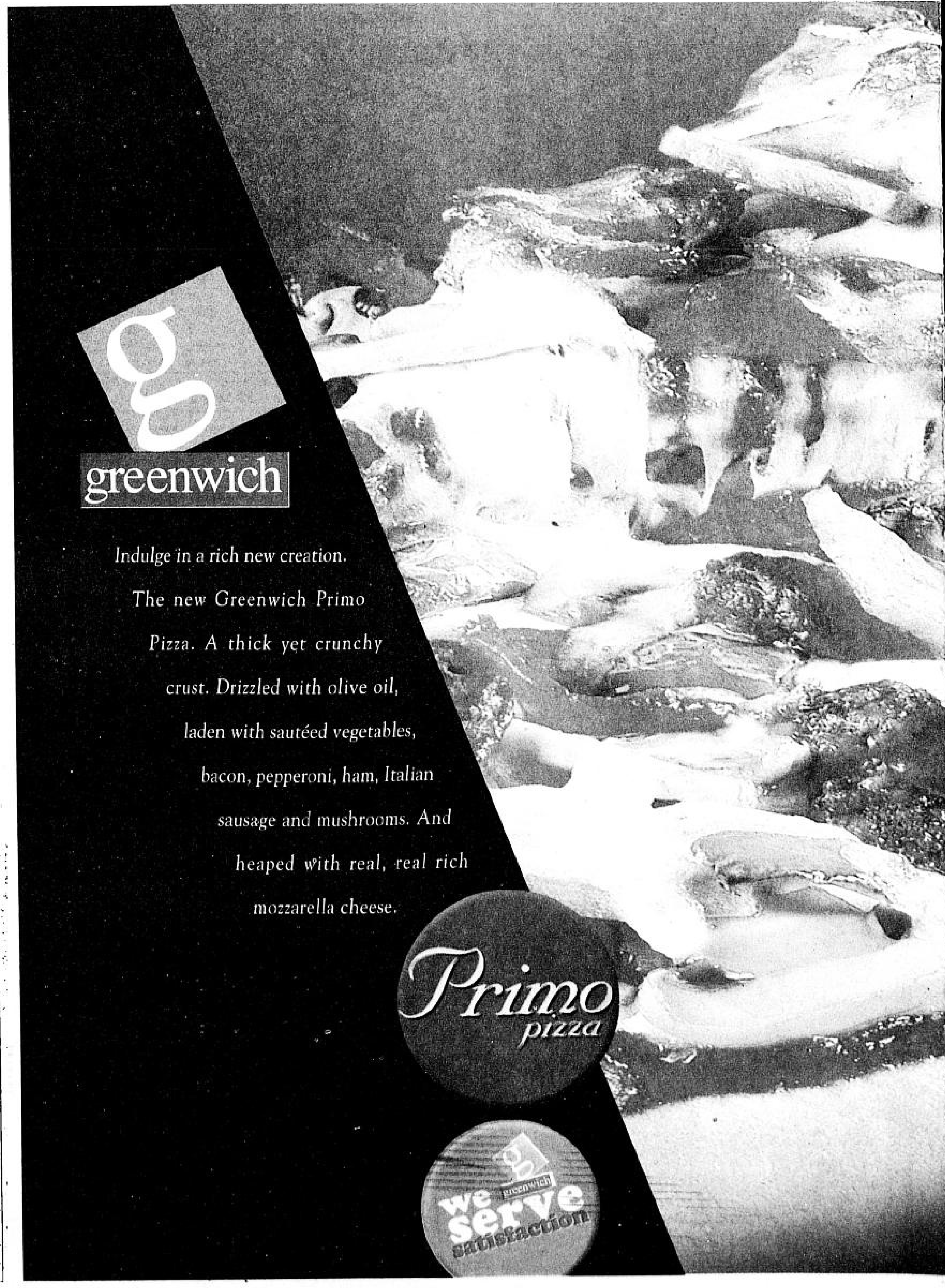
Through the efforts of the Sport Climbing Association of the Phils., IMG and San Mig Light, this extremely challenging competition is ongoing until Sept. 16 at the Glorietta Activity Center. With over 300 participants joining the Juniors, Intercollegiate and Open events, local climbers can once again avail of the chance to compete and hone their skills.

The tournament will entail two rounds—speed climbing (open and intercollegiate) and difficulty (open, intercollegiate and juniors). It started with the Juniors Elimination Round (for 17 years old and below) on Sept. 8 to be followed by the intercollegiate and men's and women's open on Sept. 15-16. Eligible participants for the open category must have joined at least two out of three regional legs (Davao, Bacolod and Legazpi) and is a Scapi member.

The intercollegiate division's qualifiers are: DLSU, PSBA, San Beda College, Saint Paul's College, UA&P, UST, UP Diliman (NCR); University of St. La Salle (Bacolod); Cagayan de Oro College, Informatics, Liceo University, Xavier University (Cagayan de Oro); Ateneo de Davao University (Davao); Mindanao State University, St. Michael's College, Iligan Medical Center College (Iligan City); Iloilo Doctor's College, University of Iloilo, UP Visayas, University of San Agustin, Western Institute of Technology (Iloilo); AMA, Leyte Institute of Technology, St. Scholastica's College, St. Paul's Business School (Tacloban).



SAN Mig Light National Sport Climbing Championships



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She discovers a strong past life connection

HERE is a question, which I believe should have been more properly addressed to Tita Dulce than to me. But because it touches on a possible past life encounter, I choose to focus on this point alone.

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

In 1975, a guy courted me, but nothing came of it because I didn't tell him I loved him then. Thinking I dumped him, he drifted away and I never saw him again. He even avoided his friends who had connections with me. Actually, he was my first love and my first kiss was with him, too.

After 26 years and through this modern technology, our high school batch members are communicating almost every day. We started to exchange e-mails and lately he began calling me.

Imagine my surprise when he mentioned that he worked near my place of work some time in the 1980s. We both got married in the same year, same month, 11 days apart. Our eldest sons were born in the same year, five months apart, too, almost identical in name. Our youngest were also born in the same year, three months apart, and their names are the same! How can such circumstances be just plain coincidence? Remember, we lost touch for 26 years.

Now our paths will again meet. He is coming home and wants to see me. Our feelings toward each other didn't change, although it's been 26 years. It may sound stupid, but we're like teenagers again, although we're both in our 40s. In our conversations, we think on the same wavelength. There are so many instances when we think of the same thing at the same time, even though he is in California and I'm here in Manila. My cell phone would suddenly beep with his messages and I'm shocked because, at that moment, I would be thinking of the same thing!

I'll be honest with you. Yes, I am in love with him and would like so much to spend the remaining years of my life with him. But it's so scary, because we're both still very much married. Are we somehow connected in a past life? If you tell me I should avoid him, I can't. He has been in my system for as long as I can remember. I even kept his graduation picture, but sent it back to him a few months ago. I treasured everything he gave me, and through these years, subconsciously I know this day will come and it happened. On his part, he couldn't believe that I still have all his gifts, that I could keep and take care of them all these years. He said I was good in keeping things. Well, not just things, but feelings, too, because that was what kept him away from me in the first place.

Please help me analyze what cosmic or karmic connections we have for each other.

NAME WITHHELD

We seldom meet a person by accident. Most of the people we have associated with in a meaningful way in this lifetime were the same persons we encountered in our past lives, not necessarily under the same circumstances but definitely we had met them before.

This is the reason we experience meeting a person for the first time and we feel inside of us that we seem to have met him or her in the past. Both instant liking or instant dislike for a person are indications the two had met before.

Our lives are a continuing cycle of rebirths brought about by our need to learn lessons and for our souls to grow. Each person we meet is our teacher, whether that meeting is considered by you to be pleasant or unpleasant.

One great cosmic law we should realize is this: Both great love and great hatred bind us to another in the next life. So if you love somebody very much, you are sure to meet that person again in the next life. The same with great hatred for another.

So if you do not want to meet your worst enemy again in the next life, you have to learn to forgive and release him in this lifetime. Again, if you love somebody very much, in a selfish and very personal manner, you are bound to pull that person again to you in the next life.

What you must learn is to love another person in a universal and unconditional manner, the same way that Christ loved us. This love carries no karmic repercussions.

The similarities in your lives were brought about by your subconscious psychic attunement to each other. And you are attuned to each other because of the many lifetimes you have lived together in past incarnations, for nothing happens by chance. This is what the Universal Law of Casuality states.

Since you have decided in this lifetime to be married to persons other than to each other, then you must really make a firm resolve what you consider to be best for both of you in this lifetime. The discovery of strong past life connection does not mean you have to leave or renounce your present partner. Or you may opt to do this, for your will is free. But remember that whatever decision you take carries with it strong karmic effects and responsibilities.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit my website at www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

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Obesity is not the way to grow

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA

A child's happy and healthy development is achieved when some of his desires are satisfied or postponed and others denied

CHUBBY children undoubtedly look cute. However, a fat child does not necessarily mean a fit child. At the recently concluded 7th Annual Convention of the Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity (Pasoo), genetics, behavior and environment were found to be the three main factors that determine obesity in childhood.

In an article for Obesity Alert, the Pasoo newsletter, Dr. Ramon Abarquez, a cardiologist at the UP-PGH, says obesity is the greatest 21st-century public health challenge. He states that it is a global epidemic that has a very high prevalence in developed countries, but is increasing at alarming rates in developing countries as well.

During the forum on "Obesity in Childhood: Not the Way to Grow," Dr. Anna Jacob, associate director at the International Life Sciences Institute in Southeast Asia, presented figures of a three-country (Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia) study conducted last year that showed growing numbers of obese children within the Southeast Asian region.

These numbers were validated by pediatrician Jean Jaucian-Poblete, who said that most recent figures provided by studies conducted locally by the Department of Health show that out of nine million Filipino children, 5 percent are found to be overweight.

"These figures were negligible nine years ago," Jaucian-Poblete says . She adds that at the age of 7, an obese child has a 41 percent chance of becoming an obese adult. By the age of 12, an obese child, Jaucian-Poblete stresses, has a 4-in-1 chance of becoming an obese adult.

Roots of childhood obesity

What makes a child obese? Jacob and Jaucian-Poblete agree that genetics plays an important role in determining obesity, but so do energy intake—meaning, food eaten and the amount of energy expended that translates to the child's amount of physical activity.

"The family," Jacob says, "is an important determinant. The risk is greatest among children with two obese parents. You cannot discount the powerful genetic factors, parental modeling and eating patterns that a child sees in his or her parent," she says.

Jaucian-Poblete adds that caregivers, like *yayas*, also play a role in childhood obesity. "The kids see the treats their *yayas* like to munch on, and since they spend a great deal with their caregivers there is a high possibility they will also imbibe their *yayas*' eating patterns," emphasizing that parents also need to monitor their child's *yaya* and themselves as well. "There should be no double standard. What's not good for the child should not be eaten or drunk by Mommy or Daddy as well."

Obesity in childhood can also be attributed to an inactive lifestyle. Jacobs says the major culprit for this is television. "There is very little energy expended while watching television. This sedentary activity promotes high-calorie snacking," she says.

Jaucian-Poblete suggests that television watching be limited to two hours a day at the most. "A four-hour-per-day television habit often results in a higher body fat, and it has been found that children who watch more than two hours of television per day more often than not have a higher Body-Mass Index (BMI) than their peers who watch less television." Jaucian-Poblete stresses the importance of moving about. "Video games have certainly taken away a great deal of time that could otherwise be spent on physical games."

A third point that Jacob attributes to the growth of obesity is the lack of physical activity in each child's life. Nowadays, she says, there is too much parental pressure on academic excellence. "The preference really is for cerebral after-school activities." She notes that, more often than not, playgrounds have become empty. Add to that the attraction computer and video games provide.

Prevention

Parents play a key role in improving the health of their obese child. Jaucian-Poblete stresses the importance of early parent education. "Even while in the womb, a mother-to-be can make a conscious decision to commit her unborn child to a life of healthy eating."

Jacob, on the other hand, says promoting life-long physical activity is essential to avoid obesity. "Reduce a child's sedentary time, activate them. Make your child play more outdoor, physical games, expose them and nurture a love for sports. Simply make the child move around more."

Addressing the physical aspects of obesity is only one part. The other half has to do with providing the child with psychosocial support as well. Jacob says obese children are subject to a large amount of discrimination.

In a study conducted in Singapore, it was found that obese children ranked lowest among those whom other children wanted to befriend. Though self-esteem is not so much an issue in the early years, it certainly becomes a problem in adolescence and adulthood.

"Parental involvement is of utmost importance. An active parent translates into an active child. Even if just one parent commits to improving their child's eating habits and physical activities, the success rate really becomes significant," Jacob says.

Child psychologist Dr. Myrielle Cruz explains that parents are the child's food providers and really influence the child's eating patterns. "A parent must commit to limiting the amount of fattening foods available around the house. If it's available in practically every nook and cranny of one's home, then that's no help at all," she says.

Cruz adds that parents must respect the child's appetite. "I've seen some parents literally force their children to eat everything on the plate," she says, shaking her head. She stresses that food should never be offered as comfort or reward. "It also helps if you limit your child's discretionary money," she adds.

The psychological support provided, Cruz says, must be a family effort. "Families can make small, gradual lifestyle changes in their eating and activity patterns. Attempts by the child at physical activities need to be praised and encouraged as well," she says.

It all begins with the family and the success of transforming your young one from a chubby child to a fit and healthy adult really falls on both the parent and the child's shoulders.

Cruz sums it up when she says that a child's happy and healthy development is best achieved when, for his/her well-being, some of the child's desires are satisfied, some postponed and others denied. A big healthy burp to that.

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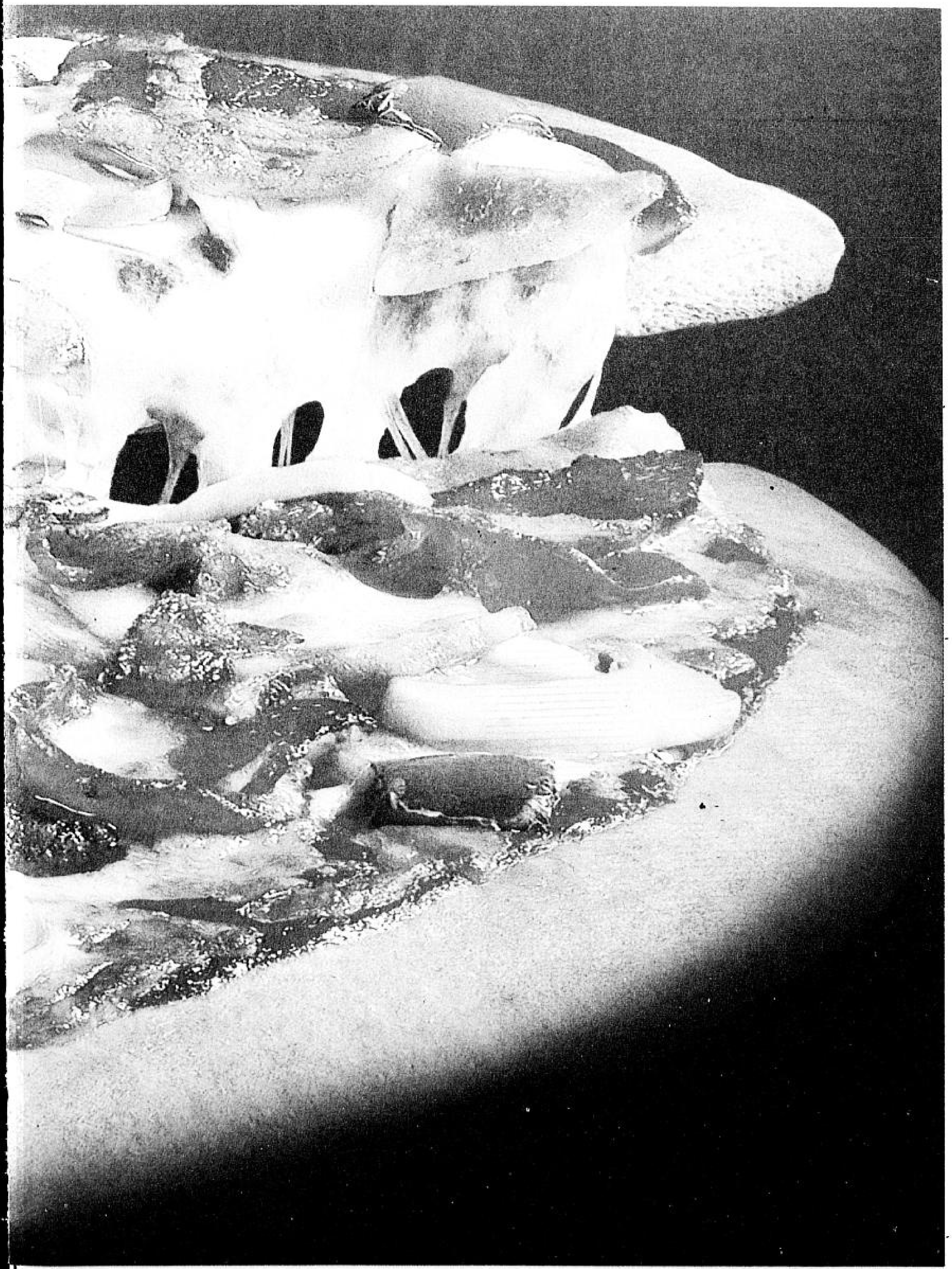

What exercise can and cannot do to improve your appearance

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

ONE of the top reasons people exercise is to improve their appearance. Vanity can be a strong motivator to work out. There is nothing wrong with being a little vain. However, if improving your appearance is the main reason you exercise, you should know and accept what it can and cannot do for you. Much as I believe in exercise, it is not the cure-all solution to every figure problem. You have to be realistic about the results you can achieve through exercise; otherwise you will get discouraged and quit. And that's a real shame because being fit delivers so many other benefits that are absolutely necessary for your health.

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Breasts

The breasts are composed of fatty tissue and milk glands. Their size is determined mostly by genetics. Chest exercises are designed to make the muscles under the breasts firmer and larger (if you lift weights that are heavy enough) so the entire chest area looks fuller but they cannot make the breasts themselves bigger because breasts do not have any muscles. Chest exercises also cannot do much for sagging breasts because the skin and the ligaments attaching the breasts to the chest have already sagged beyond repair.

The opposite is true though with regards to exercise making breasts smaller. The leaner you become, the greater the chance that your breasts will get smaller. If you are a large-breasted woman, this will probably come as a pleasant side effect of exercise, but if you are a small-breasted woman, this is the exact opposite of what you would like to happen. That's why many professional female body builders resort to breast implants to replace the breast tissue they have lost to abnormally low body fat levels.

The bottom line is that if you want to dramatically increase breast size or lift sagging breasts, you should either have good genes, a good padded push-up bra or a good plastic surgeon. If you want a drastic reduction in breast size, plastic surgery is the only practical and permanent solution.

Calves

Exercise cannot make big calves smaller because there is not much fat in that area of the body. Of course I am talking about normal weight and overweight people only. Very obese people do store fat in their calves and when they lose dramatic amounts of weight, they burn fat from there, too.

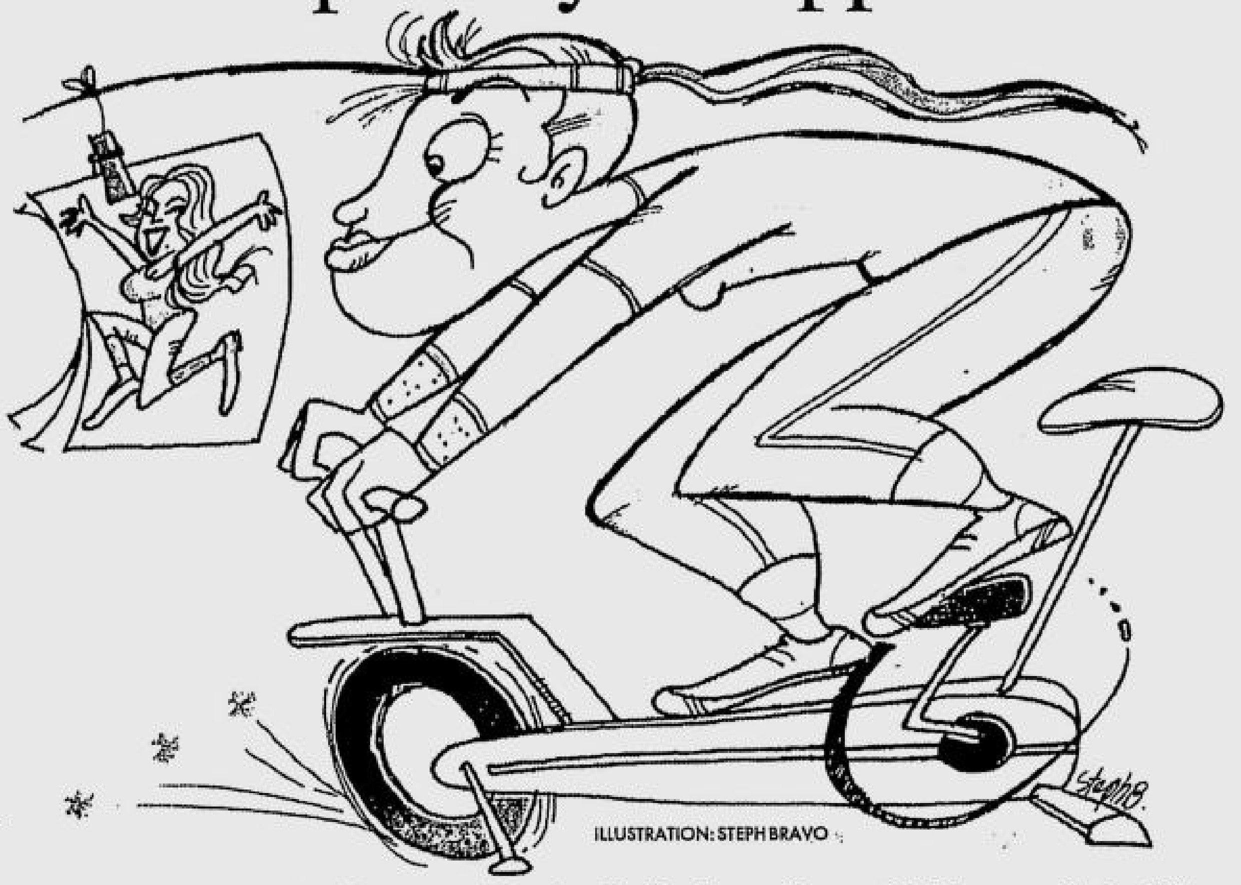

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Sometimes calves look bulky because the muscles have become abnormally short and tight from always wearing high heels, doing a lot of walking uphill, doing step aerobics with the heels hanging off the edge of the bench or doing any kind of repetitive activity on the balls of the feet. If this is the situation, doing calf stretches for 30-60 seconds several times a day as well as avoiding the offending factors (for example: wearing lower heels, walking on a flat surface and doing step aerobics with the whole foot on the bench) can help to bring the muscles back to their original length and thus make the calves look slimmer.

Regarding the reverse situation (wanting bigger calves), it is difficult but not impossible to turn puny calves into big bulky ones. If this is the desire of your heart, be prepared for hard work because the calf muscles are quite strong and require a lot of resistance to make them bigger.

Cellulite

As far as research can tell, cellulite is not a special kind of fat but ordinary fat that is trapped under thin skin and connective tissue that is attached in a way that makes the fat bulge through. Both aerobic (walking, running, cycling, etc.) and resistance (weight-lifting, rubber bands, body weight exercises, etc.) exercise programs can help improve the appearance of cellulite by reducing the size of fat cells and increasing the size of muscle fibers in the cellulite-prone areas. However, it is highly unrealistic to expect exercise to give you flawless hips, thighs and buttocks if you have a genetic tendency toward cellulite. Being the reluctant owner of more unwanted "dimples" than I would like, I can see the difference when I work out consistently with weights and when I don't. But even when I am at my most consistent, my thighs are not as perfect as I would want them to be.

Stretched skin

Having tight firm muscles can help "pull" in stretched skin but only slightly. For example, firming up the muscles of the abdomen can help lessen the appearance of loose skin but only a little. Exercise does absolutely nothing for stretch marks. If you lose weight drastically, whether from too much vigorous exercise or dieting or a combination of both, take note that your skin may sag (the older you are, the more this will happen). So, it is always wiser to lose weight slowly to give your skin time to adjust to your new size. This is also one of the reasons you should not gain excess weight during pregnancy.

Stubborn pockets of fat

Even when you are at a normal weight and body fat percentage, there sometimes remain stubborn pockets of fat like at the sides of the thighs (saddlebags) for women and around the waist (love handles) for men. Other people have it in the lower abdomen or on the upper back. No amount of spot exercises like leg lifts or abdominal crunches will remove these small but annoying pockets of fat. The reason nature forces you to hang on to these fat depots even if you are already quite lean could be a question of survival. In olden times, this could be your ticket to surviving a long famine. This means that you would have to become almost skeletal for you to get rid of this kind of fat. This is not only unhealthy but also unflattering. What can you do about it? Only two solutions: Live with it or have liposuction.

Height

It would seem to be common sense that exercise cannot make you taller but I get a lot of questions about whether stretching can make a person taller. The answer is no. Stretching cannot make you taller than you are genetically predetermined to be. However, there is a kernel of truth to this myth. Many people have terrible posture and appear shorter than they should actually be. Stretching can help to improve posture by making tight muscles more flexible. Exercise programs like Pilates and yoga that involve both strengthening and stretching are excellent for improving posture and making you look like you have gained an inch or two.

Weight

Exercise cannot do it all for you if you want to lose weight. You see, no matter how much you work out, if you continue to stuff your face with starchy, sugary and fatty food, you will still be overweight. Exercise together with sensible eating is the best way to lose weight and maintain the weight loss forever. Just remember that the eating part is very important. Don't be in denial and think that just because you exercise, you can eat as much as you want. If you think this way, you will be fit but you will also be fat.

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PSC sponsors Palarong Pinoy at Nayong Pilipino

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission joins Nayong Pilipino in turning September as a hefty sports event in Palarong Pinoy 2001, which launches three Saturdays (Sept. 8, 15 and 22) of exciting indigenous Philippine games.

Open to all students from both elementary and secondary levels in Metro Manila, this sports festival features popular Philippine games: *sungka*, *sipa*, *culliot*, *patintero*, *tiyakad*, *sangkayaw*, *piko* and *paslit* marathon. Apart from these individual and team games, a cheering competition for best team boosters will also be held.

Aimed primarily to promote and propagate traditional Philippine games, Palarong Pinoy is an annual Nayong Pilipino Foundation project that engages the youth in a spirit of fun-learning amidst friendly competition leading to better appreciation of the country's rich and unique cultural heritage.

Call Nayong Pilipino at 832-3760/67 to 69. Nayong Pilipino is an attached agency of the Department of Tourism.

St. Luke's celebrates Medicine Week

ST. Luke's Department of Medicine celebrates Medicine Week on Sept. 15-21 with the theme "Medicine at the Crossroads...Keeping the Excellence," with a series of activities like a fun run, sportsfest, trivia contest, research paper contest and a grand alumni homecoming and fellowship night. The opening ceremonies on Sept. 17 has Department of Education, Culture and Sports Secretary Raul S. Roco as keynote speaker. Highlight of the week-long celebration is the annual scientific session on "The Breakthroughs of Medicine...The Human Genome Project—Outcome, Benefits and Implications" on Sept. 21, 8 a.m.-12 nn, at the 2/F Conference Room.